CDXC CHILTERN DX CLUB The UK DX Foundation

Newsletter

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: DECEMBER 7th

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

From the Constitution: *"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"*

From the Prospectus: *"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"*

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £10.00 for UK members, and £15.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above). *Please note that subscription changes from 1st Jan.*

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee.*

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
EDITORIAL	2
CHAIRMAN'S BIT	4
LETTERS	7
CONTEST CO-ORDINATOR	9
INTERNET	9
ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION	10
CQWW RECORDS	11
IOTA PUBLICATIONS	12
CDXC ANNUAL DINNER	12
DX CALENDAR - *TNX DXNS*	13
WELCOME!!	13
15M WORLD RECORD ZD8Z	13
SCARBOROUGH REEF AND THE BIG PICTURE	14
FOC IN GHANA	15
CQWW CW - J7	15
WRTC	15
CONGRATULATIONS!!	16
IHFC '94 - A PUNTER'S PERSPECTIVE	17
A GUIDE TO TRAVELLERS (NEW CUSTOMS REGULATIONS)	20
MARTIN LYNCH OPEN DAY	21
MEMBERSHIP LIST CHANGES	21
SMOM 1994	22
DO *YOU* QUALIFY	24
RAMBLINGS OF A DX EDITOR	25
CONTENTS	27
MOUNT ATHOS - THE LAST SURVIVING FRAGMENT OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE.	27
WHO INVENTED SLIM?	28
CDXC - THE EARLY DAYS	30
RAW SCORE RESULTS ZF2JI	32
IOTA SPONSORSHIP BY YAESU	33
RSGB HF & IOTA CONVENTION 1994 IOTA DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS (SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 1994)	33
AN OUTING TO ANGMASSALIK OX3/G3ZAY36	
TELEPHONE QRM	38
NU2L/VE8 - YEAR 3	38
CUBAN IOTA DXPEDITIONS	43
IOTA NEWS	44
BOOK REVIEW	45
QSO FROM THE HUMBER BRIDGE	46
9X5HG	46
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!	47

EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

The contest season as well and truly with us, and how! From my personal perspective, conditions in CQWW SSB (on 10/15/20 - I didn't operate on 40/80) were quite spectacular, especially on 10m, although this view is not shared by the experts at G0KPW - see letters section. Who would have thought, on the preceding Wednesday, when propagation seemed to be at rock bottom, that there would be so much workable on 10m? I worked ZS5HAM early Saturday afternoon, who was 'over the moon' with propagation on, and who had already racked up over 800 QSOs on 10m (OK, not a huge scoring rate, but more than I would have expected on the band), and Bren, G4DYO, remarked, on Sunday morning, that he'd at that time, worked over 120 countries on 10m without really trying. It wasn't just the north/south path that yielded good propagation; there were some cracking signals from Asia and Oceania, although I don't recall an opening to the USA on 10m. C56DX remarked that 10m conditions were "truly excellent", and the 15m and 20m conditions were "first class". C56DX unfortunately lost power for about 3 hours, and had some performance problems with their low band antennas, but, in spite of that, managed to chalk up around 5.25m points. For me, it was the first major contest I'd participated in since the station upgrade, and I had lots of fun, and also filled a few band/mode country slots. Whilst on the subject of CQWW, please do remember to put your club down as CDXC when submitting your entry. Last year, CDXC came 7th in the CW DX Club category.

The Convention seemed to go off very well. Judging by the comments of a number of visitors who very kindly gave feedback to Neville, G3NUG both at and after the convention, it was "the best ever". The quality and breadth of lectures seems to have been particularly appreciated. Organising an event of this nature is a major task, and there will inevitably be some glitches. The only one that I was aware of was an unfortunate problem with projector/slide magazine compatibility at one of the lectures. I was unable to make any of the lectures myself, spending most of my time in the software demonstration room, and sorting out the odd

organisational problems with the rooms. The CDXC room, located with the GB301OTA special event station, attracted lots of interest, and CDXC gained lots of new members - see list later. For a more detailed look at the Convention, read Bob Whelan's, article.

Just after the Convention, I had the misfortune to be off work for a couple of days with a bug of some sort. During this time, I managed to catch up on a backlog of reading. I read the "IOTA- 30 Years On" book from cover to cover, and can thoroughly recommend it. The book really catches what IOTA is all about, both as an island chaser and as an island activator. If you're already hooked on IOTA, this book is a must. If not, it's still an intriguing read, and you'll probably end up getting hooked in the process! The Convention was a big occasion for the IOTA programme, celebrating its 30th birthday, when a major sponsorship deal was announced with Yaesu - more of that later in the Newsletter.

Bruce, G4WVX, who has acted as CDXC contest co-ordinator for a couple of years, has indicated that pressure of work now forces him to relinquish this post. I'd like to thank Bruce for all the effort that he has put in in developing the position, and for the resulting input to the Newsletter. The Committee is looking for a volunteer to carry on Bruce's good work - see advertisement later in the Newsletter.

Another bit of fun since the last Newsletter was operating GB301OTA. I haven't been able to look closely at all the logs yet (I have a large pile of floppies waiting to be looked at after this Newsletter has been put to bed), but initial indications are that there were a good number of operators who achieved 500-800 QSOs, but none, so far as I am aware, managed to crack the 1000 barrier. I will publish an analysis of the GB301OTA logs in the January Newsletter. The direct QSLs are flowing in, and I've just had the first batch envelopes from the RSGB. QSLs will be printed during November, and I would expect to clear the direct cards before Christmas, probably much sooner.

Another event in October was the FOC's annual dinner at Lords Cricket Ground. There were, of course a good number of CDXC members there who are members of FOC. It was good also to see a fair number of CDXC members there, as guests, who are not FOC members. Apart from myself, G3KMA, G3NUG, G3XTT and G4DYO were there. I thought that Neville was treading on dodgy ground, as I didn't think he acknowledged the existence of CW! Appropriately enough, there were 161 sitting down to dinner. The highlight from CDXC's point of view, of course, was the presentation to CDXC of *The Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Trophy*, for services to HF operating within the UK. The award was received by CDXC President, Roger Balister, G3KMA.

I'd like to encourage members to supply letters for publication, to try and get some debate going on topical DX matters. I know that some of my views are not always shared (so the grapevine says), but no-one has actually put pen to paper and written in. Chip Margelli, K7JA, who has recently joined CDXC, has written a first class article on the development of amateur radio in China, which ends in a plea for all active DXers to support the application for DXCC country status for Scarborough Reef. This is an opposing view to the one that I expressed in the last Newsletter, so everyone must disagree with one or other of us! Lets have some correspondence please!

As I write this, VK9NS and JA1BK are in Bhutan. It happened! Kan, JA1BK, was heard as A51MOC (at 04:00z on November 3rd) on 20 meters SSB in Japan. Some JAs made QSO with him. Signal was very weak. The DX Community owes a lot to Jim Smith for the patient and prolonged discussions with

the Bhutan authorities. Hopefully, these negotiations will result in not just an operation by VK9NS and party, but also will ensure that A5 residents are able to operate on the amateur bands on a permanent basis.

Thanks to all contributors, *Focus, DXNS, The Daily Telegraph, The Engineer, QRZDX,* and *The UK PacketCluster Network.*

Finally, as this is the last Newsletter of the year, may I take this opportunity of wishing all members

Chairman's Bit
Neville Cheadle G3NUG

What a month that was!

- The RSGB HF and IOTA Convention
- The FOC Annual Dinner at which we received the Al Slater G3FXB Memorial Trophy
- The completion of a 5-Year Development Plan for IOTA
- The signing of the IOTA Sponsorship Agreement
- The publication of the 1995 IOTA Directory and of the IOTA Anniversary Booklet
- A CDXC Committee meeting and an HF Committee meeting,
- Several requests for funding DXpeditions etc., etc.

I was delighted to be at the FOC Dinner when Roger G3KMA, our President, was presented with the Al Slater trophy for our work as the leading organisation promoting DX and HF interests within the UK. A thoroughly good time was had by all. This was the first FOC Dinner I have attended and I didn't realise how many active G3s there were around the bottom ends of the bands.

Trio-Kenwood and Martin Lynch again sponsored the Convention and we were most grateful for their support without which we could not hold the Convention. Martin has just joined CDXC - Welcome Martin. Certainly CDXC did its bit. About 25 members were involved in one way or another and I would again like to thank everyone for their contribution. We really did have a sell-out with about 200 coming to IOTA's 30th Birthday Party on the Friday evening and 250 to the DX Dinner on Saturday - a sell out with 30 DXCC countries represented. There was standing room only for both of Peter Casier's presentations (ON6TT) on the 3Y0PI Peter Is DXpedition and many of the other lectures were also packed out.

The DX Quiz seemed to interest a number of people. I really thought that the G's would do better but the ON's wiped the board clear with Ghis ON5NT, the Winner scoring 96 out of a possible 100 followed by Pam ON4QP and Mat ON5KL in second place. Top G was John G3VJP and his team, a new CDXC member with 7th place. Welcome John. Come on you G's - have a go next year! Surely the Brits can do better?

On the Friday morning of the Convention I had a call from CDXC member Barry G4RKO, who is the Sales and Marketing Manager of Yaesu UK Ltd. with whom the IOTA Committee has entered into a Sponsorship Agreement. Barry asked me whether we would like to raffle a Yaesu hand-held that evening at IOTA's Birthday Party so as to build up the IOTA funds. I readily agreed! With the proceeds of this (£517) and an auction for a 3Y0PI T-shirt (£35) the IOTA Committee was able to raise sufficient funds to purchase a new Yaesu FT 747 rig. This has been loaned to Peter 4K4BEU who operates a helicopter in the

Russian Arctic. He plans to activate many islands in this area with this rig including several not previously activated. QSLs will be handled in the UK. If any member can help by acting as QSL manager for these operations please do get in touch.

Next year's Convention is planned for the weekend of 8-10 September 1995 again at the Beaumont Convention Centre. So make a diary note now. We are seeking a Chairman to lead the Organising Committee and members to join the Committee - Volunteers please to David G3OUF as Chairman of the RSGB HF Committee.

We've made considerable progress regarding the the funding of DXpeditions and have agreed with the RSGB's HF Committee that we will discuss together all worthy cases and will match the funding when feasible. In the past two months CDXC has committed £50 to ZL2HU who will activate Pukapuka Atoll (OC-098) in the North Cooks as ZK1KH and £100 for the forthcoming DXpedition to South Georgia. Both were matched by the RSGB fund. We rejected a request to support the XF4 Revilla Gigedo DXpedition over the CQWW SSB weekend because there have been two major DXpenditions there during the past two years and we need conserve our funds.

I am going to propose to the Committee that when we fund DXpeditions in future that we receive a commitment from the DXpeditioneers to answer bureau QSL cards. At the Convention we heard of a number of cases where this was not happening.

Much has been happening on the IOTA front with a 5-Year Development Plan now finalised and published (copies available from me - s.a.s.e. please) and a world-wide Sponsorship Agreement has been signed with Yaesu for the next 3 years. As part of the sponsorship arrangement, Yaesu will be making available to the IOTA Committee a complete portable station in a small carry-on case, including the new Yaesu FT-900 transceiver. The Committee will loan this to IOTA DXpeditioners and further details can be obtained from me. This portable station was shown at the Convention and created a great deal of interest.

If any member would like to borrow this rig to activate an island group please get in touch. We are very keen to bring younger amateurs into the IOTA Programme so if any member knows of a team perhaps from a local radio club who would like to use the rig do let me know. We can also help with the QSL cards. A weekend trip to an outlying Scottish Island could yield 2000/3000 QSOs and be lots of fun.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter there is mention of the 1995 IOTA Directory and the IOTA Anniversary Booklet - "IOTA - 30 Years On". Both are highly recommended, the Directory includes the results of the major 1994 revision and is an essential tool for a keen island hunter. There should not be another major revision for five years. The Anniversary Booklet includes many interesting DXpedition stories, many of them put on by one person on his own. It's amazing what can be done; this should be of interest to all DXers.

By the time this note appears Jim Smith VK9NS could well be active from Bhutan (A5). See you in the pile-ups and hope you like the new badges.

73 Neville

JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY
Dave MANN G0HXN

Well another Convention has come and gone. And I must say it was a great pleasure in meeting so many of you during the event, and what a good Convention it was and I feel sure that all those who attended enjoyed it, especially the "pile up" during the DX

Dinner on Saturday, and Neville acting as a judge for a Lavatorial CW Contest, I think some of our overseas guests were a little taken back, and I know some of them really couldn't get to grips with the Morris Dancing. For those of you who did not attend, and have paid your subs in time I shall be posting on your new club badges within the next week or so. For the others, and new members hopefully within a month or two.

I must say though that the Convention is billed as the RSGB Convention, I got the impression that the RSGB was very low key, and apart from the books sales over the weekend they seemed to be nearly invisible. And after visiting LIVE 94 at Earls Court recently I was disappointed in finding that what should have been a high profile exhibition of Amateur Radio was tucked away at the back of the centre and needed the expertise of an Indian tracker to find it. I would hate to see what was paid for the floor space, but there the RSGB was contained in a floor area of about 4 feet wide, the dealers didn't fare much better either. I must admit the staff from all the contributors on the stand were working very hard but it seemed crowded with more than 6 people visiting at once. When you see the high profile of other National Societies especially the ARRL we really need to get our finger out, and stop doing things on the cheap. I wonder even if it will get a write up in RadCom

I was saddened and angry to hear that one of our members had his copy of the 3Y0PI book stolen from his brief case during the Convention, this sort of behaviour leaves a nasty taste in the mouth and I would hopefully expect a different type of conduct from a radio amateur, may his SWR be forever off the scale and all contacts be SLIMS.

I had the usual annual discussion about QSLing and the rip off by some DX stations, everybody seems to complain about them but nothing ever seems to happen about it, and they still seem to go on and run another event and "QSL DIRECT ONLY etc. etc. etc." And we like idiots still shell out the green stamps on the belief that this time a card will result. I think it is long overdue that like some well run DX stations who run black lists, the Amateur community should banish these people into the wilderness, and their callsigns advertised world wide as thieves because that is what they are. On the IOTA front the team up with Yaesu was well received by all concerned, and having seen the magnificent trophies which were presented to Roger during the weekend there will I am sure be some real competition for these. I particularly liked the beautiful contribution from the EI lads who were in fine form all weekend I might add.

We had quite a few new members sign up, and our DXCC country count has improved quite considerably, a full list will be published in the next edition once Mike has had the opportunity to collate all the bits and pieces from his cash box. In case you have not brought the IOTA Year Book (Available from Roger G3KMA) I am the contact point if you are off to the Pacific area on a DXpedition and wish to make use of the WARC beam antenna which is residing on one of the Islands drop me a line for conditions etc. We now have some CDXC goodies, key rings, paper weights and rubber stamps, all good value so how about investing. By the time you read this News Letter I would have been visited by Hilary Claytonsmith, and Martin Lynch, who are visiting my works QTH as Official Visitors, and there is no truth in the rumour that Martins crew in Ealing asked me to keep him in. Any items for the next Committee Meeting, which incidentally is at Neville's QTH on the 17th November at 7pm (or 1900 hrs in real money) please let me know by the 3rd. November for inclusion onto the Agenda. Lets have a few more items for the News Letter by the way, as contentious as

you like, lets get some dialogue going. See you in the pile ups. 73 and Good DX. Dave

LETTERS

Dear Alan

I wanted to write this time about QSLing, responding to comments in the last edition of CDXC Newsletter.

QSLing - Profit or Loss?

No doubt about it QSLing does NOT, repeat NOT, produce a profit. There are two possible exceptions to the rule: those who manage QSLs for the mega-rare DXpeditions like 3Y0PI, and those who cheat.

By cheating I mean those rare cases where the operator/manager refuses to reply until the third request (e.g. saying his postal service is not working), sends many cards in one envelope to one country expecting the recipient to foot the bill for on-sending, or simply finds sneaky ways of cutting mailing costs when full reply postage has been paid for. Fortunately these cases are indeed rare and bear no further discussion. Cheats are soon found out.

Rarity of the call-sign however does have an impact, maybe because DXers are that much more keen to secure a rare QSL and will include an extra dollar to be sure, or simply because rare implies expensive therefore some extra contribution may be offered to help foot the bill.

My own experience in recent years includes carefully counting the QSLing costs in some detail for several DXpeditions - I'm just built that way. I'd split my experience into three categories. First the less rare: GD, GJ, GU, ZF. Then the semi-rare: C56, H44, 3DA, ZC4. Finally the super-rare: ZD9. The expenses accrued are all-encompassing: printing the QSL cards, postage for direct replies (all airmail), postage to the bureau, money to the bureau sub-manager for sending cards to me. The income is easy to count: dollars and IRCs (sold to the post office for 41 pence), and including convertible currencies like Italian Lira and Deutschemarks, but excluding funny-money from UB5.

There is a direct correlation. For class one (non-rare) expeditions QSLing costs money, just as it does when QSLing from the home call. Overall the proportion of contacts QSLed direct is low so a high percentage of cards come through the bureau with no cash contributions. Those that come direct tend to have the minimum one dollar or IRC enclosed. In this case the direct cards just about pay for themselves but the bureau cards (printing, receipt, despatch) you pay for yourself.

In class two (semi-rare) the whole thing breaks even. A higher proportion of cards come direct but the vast majority enclose the minimum one dollar/IRC. Its amazing but in all four cases this has been pretty much the experience. What this means is that the direct QSLs produce a profit and this profit pays for the costs of bureau cards (print and postage). Therefore the expedition is neither financially burdened nor assisted by QSLing. In the super-rare category I was astonished to find that the QSLing account for ZD9SXW contributed meaningfully to the costs of the expedition, even though this was wholly unsolicited. The proportion of direct cards was far higher (over 50%) and the standard one or two dollars/IRCs was augmented in a significant number of cases. In several envelopes there were extra chunks of 10, 20 or 30 dollars that bowled me over. This served to reduce what was an horrendously expensive trip (willingly expended) to a manageable financial drain.

So the moral is: he who must get rich does not DXpedition! Unless you're into those top countries on the Wanted List please do expect AT BEST a break-even on QSLing

costs. N.B.: for those who do not properly count all the income and expenditure do not be fooled by all those lovely dollars rolling in. That's like thinking that the only cost of motoring is petrol.

A couple of tail-end points of QSL-trivia interest. There has been a dramatic shift away from IRCs towards dollars in recent times. Only 3-4 years ago it was 50/50 but now it is at least 75% dollars. It surely has become the standard medium when many G's use them to QSL a G! Selling dollars now (in UK anyway) equates closely to selling IRCs, so there's no real disadvantage. However, I wish I had a camera with me the day I went into Barclays with a brief-case full of one-dollar bills. The cashier's eyes really popped out until she realised they were all ones - then she nearly fainted at the prospect of counting them all!!

I agree with the suggestion that extra comments are generally not wanted by the QSL Manager and serve merely to clutter up the card and making the vital QSO details less legible. However, this is said only because the vast majority of such comments are of the "Best wishes to your family" variety. A very odd thing to say to a total stranger! But when the originator says something interesting like: "My last one needed for CW DXCC", or "Amazed you heard me with 100 milliwatts", or "I visited that island in 1953" ... then it adds enormously to the pleasure of replying, especially when its 0300 and you've just done an eight-hour stint.

Basically if you want to squeeze a card out of a manager who doesn't usually reply try something creative. Include an unusual (small) gift. It attracts attention and maybe impinges on his conscience. If you want to simply minimise his investment of time and sweat then make your call and the date/time/band stand out boldly. If you can think of something witty or unusual to say he will delight in the welcome break to his otherwise grinding concentration.

If you get a "Not in Log" don't fear asking a second time, but do firstly check the date/time in your log and sensibly consider whether you may have worked a pirate. If its really important (a new one) maybe you should have noted in your log call-signs of stations worked just before and just after your QSO and mention these on the card. The DX station can then pinpoint the event and maybe give you the benefit of the doubt on a busted call in his log. If he still refuses to confirm then sorry, he really was working someone else when you thought he was working you.

73 de Roger, G3SXW

—++—

Dear Alan

Perhaps I can help in the future if you have something planned. My station is readily available as it is detached from the house, separated by the village railway line, on about 10 acres of land which I own. (*Ed: Bill says there's room for a caravan*) Aerials at the moment consist of a 3 element at 65ft for 15 and 20m, and a second Strumec HD mast carrying a 5 element 20m beam. I have a 160m inverted Vee on the one mast, a 125ft centre fed for 40/80m slung between trees, and a 40m BOBTAIL, which is sometimes up, and sometimes down!!! - depends on how I feel, although 20m is my main interest. Only got the DX bug during the last 3 years, previously it was construction, then rag chewing. I always replied with a QSL card of course, but it was not like the present day when always waiting for the postman to call!

I join in a little in the contests, but cannot stand the pace. Also, although I am retired, I am still very short of time! The land which I own is very nice for its radio potential, but does involve a lot of maintenance work.

I had an interesting time, radio wise, on the West Coast. Made return visits to several of the clubs, but noticed a reduction of membership/activity in the clubs having mixed and junior membership, although two of the clubs having members in the 60/70 yrs age group are still going strong. The NCDXF membership is, I believe , still holding up, but there did not seem to be the same number attending as in the previous 3-4 years. Still around the 100 though. Am hoping to attend Visalia next April.

Best wishes de Bill, G3CAQ.

Alan, As a short follow-up to my article in the last Newsletter about the USA Field Day, I have just seen the November QST with the results in. N4AR came third in Class 2A out of 670 entries! That is by far the best that the Kentucky Contest Group have ever done. Class 2A was by the far the most popular with the 670 entries, Class 3A was next with 363 entries and thenb 1A with 250 entries. The QST write-up says there were 2,058 entries with more than 36,208 people involved and 1.46 million QSOs. Quite a large and well supported event and a little different than our Field Day!

73 de Chris, G4BUE

Ed: The following resulted from a request to G4BUO to provide a quick overview of G0KPW in CQWW SSB.

Hi Alan. As you know we are not alone in Europe in being a bit cagey about the score! Conditions were very poor on Satruday with the aurora, although th at helped 10m a little, I suppose. We made 5BDXCC again but didn't work zone 31 (KH6 etc) on any band! Dead rig count: two FT1000, Omni V and two Titans all failed on 20m. Attributed to 'the curse of BUO' but I deny it! 80m 4 square worked well although f/b could have been better. Stacks on 15 and 20 were excellent. The crew got a visit from the local planning officer on Thursday asking what all the aerials/trailer were about. We were able to say it is all temporary, and indeed by 5 pm Monday everything was down and packed away. Perhaps give a mention to the ops: G3LNS G3NKC G3VHB G4BAH G4BUO G4BWP G4PIQ G4VMM G0AEV G0AFH G0HSS G0UHK(NZ1W) G7ABQ G7BKO K1XX but of course it is only possible due to the incredible drive from Bob Carpenter G4BAH. Still feeling pretty zapped but if I remember anything else earth shattering I'll pass it on to you. Cheers, Dave

CONTEST CO-ORDINATOR

The post of Contest Co-ordinator is currently vacant. The Committee is looking for a volunteer to take on the position, which, although being an Officer of the club, is a non-Committee position. We are looking for a member with a keen interest in HF contesting. Main duties are:

- To provide the "Advance Contest Information" page to the Editor of the Newsletter.
- To co-ordinate CDXC participation in the major HF contests.
- To provide as full a copy as possible of the rules of the above contestests to members who request them.
- To collate claimed scores from members entering contests, for publication in the Newsletter.

Any member willing to take on the position should contact the Secretary, David Mann, G0HXN.

INTERNET

I can now be contacted via the Internet, and would be pleased to receive letters, articles and news for publication via that medium. My e-mail address is *alanj@pires.co.uk*.

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Bruce Gilson, G4WVX

Space does not permit inclusion of the full rules, so an abbreviated version is shown, together with the source of that information - thanks go to RadCom, QST and CQ magazines. For those that do not have access to these comics, I can supply a copy of the rules as published. Some of the details are from the previous year, as the latest rules have often not been published in the comics in time for inclusion here. I may well have more recent versions of the rules nearer the actual contest date.

Nov 11/13 JARL International DX (Phone) (QST Nov 93)
2300-2300Z RS+Serial 80-10m
Single-Op single and multi-band, Multi-Op multi-band
Non-JA work JA, JA work non-JA

Nov 19/20 **2nd 160m (CW)** (RC Oct 94)
2100-0100Z RST+Serial+County Code 1.820-1.870 MHz only
Single-Op only, work everyone

Nov 26/27 **CQWW DX (CW)** (CQ Sep 94)
0000-2400Z RST+CQ Zone (UK=14) 160-10m No WARC
Single-Op single-band or all-band: High(>100W), Low(<=100W), QRP(<=5W), Assisted
Multi-Op single Tx(10 min rule) & multi-Tx Work everyone

Dec 02/04 **ARRL 160m (CW)** (QST Nov 93)
2200-1600Z RST
Single-Op QRP(<=5W output), Low power(<=150W output), High power
Multi-Op single Tx only, work W/VE only

Dec 10/11 **ARRL 10m (CW & Phone)** (QST Nov 93)
0000-2400Z RS(T)+Serial, max 36 hours including listening
Single-Op QRP(<=5W output), Low power(<=150W output), High power
combined with Mixed mode, Phone only or CW only
Multi-Op single Tx, Mixed mode only

1995

Jan 06/08 **Japan International DX (CW Part 1)** (QST Jan 94/RC Jan 94)
2200-2200Z RST+CQ Zone (UK=14) 160-40m Work JA only
Probable dates and info - no published details available yet

As usual, any suggestions for inclusion here and contest sites etc are gladly welcomed. I can be contacted via DX Cluster (@GB7DXI), the BBS system (@GB7DEO), and The Internet (Bruce@g4wvx.demon.co.uk) in addition to the details published in the newsletter.

* + * + * + * + *

After some eighteen months in this post, I am increasingly finding a lack of hours in the day/week to enable me to collate and produce the information for the newsletter. My contributions are usually late, arriving with Alan (PMR) well after the close date for the newsletter, but just in time for inclusion.

It is with regret that I feel that I must step down from the post of CDXC Contest Co-ordinator. I will continue to produce my usual input for the newsletter until a replacement member takes over. I will be pleased to forward any gathered information that I have to any prospective volunteer.

Oh for the 40 hour day, the 10 day week and the reinstatement of Zulu Time all year round!

CQWW Records
UK PacketCluster Network

As in previous years, I have compiled a list of CQWW records for World, Europe and the UK. As might be expected, relatively few new records were set in 1993. However, for the first time in many years we have a European record held by a G - GW3YDX on 160 in CQWW CW. Congratulations Ron! Please notify me of any errors in the compilation.

73 Don G3XTT

UK CQWW Records 1993

CQWW Phone:

Class	Area	Call	Year	Points	QSOs	Zones	Ctrys	Notes
Single	World	HC8A	92	16316568	8318	160	508	Op:N6KT
Op/All	Europe	S52AA	92	7134192	4378	151	473	Op:OH2KI
Band	UK	GW4BLE	90	6329120	4251	138	422	
160m	World	UG7GWO	87	255852	1327	12	57	
	Europe	LZ2CJ	84	107818	1319	13	61	
	UK	G3KMA	92	30822	445	8	58	
80m	World	P40R	87	552786	1628	23	91	Op:K4UEE
	Europe	HA8IE	90	361343	1455	35	116	
	UK	GW4OFQ	91	183590	1180	19	91	
40m	World	PJ9U	93	1199968	2637	34	120	Op:OH1VR
	Europe	S59UN	92	875875	2419	37	138	
	UK	G3NLY	93	558927	1816	37	126	
20m	World	ZX0F	93	2111420	3699	36	157	Op:PY5EG
	Europe	OH2BH	92	1870170	4008	39	154	Op:OH2IW
	UK	G3FXB	90	1423450	3242	38	137	
15m	World	ZW5B	93	2834228	4524	39	173	Op:N5FA
	Europe	CQ4A	90	1757780	3912	38	141	Op:CT1BOP
	UK	GU5CAA	78	1123380	2729	35	123	
10m	World	ZV5A	91	2984166	5154	37	156	
	Europe	YU3ZV	88	1541603	3219	39	134	
	UK	G3FXB	88	1494048	3338	37	121	
Multi/	World	PJ1B	93	22596570	9386	164	646	
Single	Europe	IQ4A	90	17255700	7253	183	717	
	UK	GU6UW	90	13155792	6997	167	587	
Multi/	World	PJ1B	90	57610400	19655	189	803	
Multi	Europe	LX7A	89	26578978	14947	175	751	
	UK	G0KPW	92	23717638	11017	182	744	

CQWW CW:

Class	Area	Call	Year	Points	QSOs	Zones	Ctrys	Notes
Single	World	EA8EA	91	13225295	6490	171	514	Op:OH2MM
Op/All	Europe	ZB2X	93	6129904	4606	147	491	Op:OH2KI
Band	UK	G4BUO	92	3983382	2854	145	442	
160m	World	UG6GAW	90	164430	851	15	55	
	Europe	GW3YDX	93	154376	1030	19	73	
	UK	GW3YDX	93	154376	1030	19	73	
80m	World	NP4A	88	808640	2243	31	102	Op:K1ZM
	Europe	ON4UN	93	630568	2119	35	114	
	UK	G3KDB	92	360822	1488	28	93	
40m	World	C41A	93	1307944	2972	34	133	Op:T93A
	Europe	S59UN	92	971049	2484	38	135	

	UK	G3FXB	90	557151	1784	30	99	
20m	World	P40V	91	1883700	3521	38	142	Op:N7NG
	Europe	OH2BH	90	915136	2454	36	122	Op:OH6UM
	UK	G3FXB	88	708724	1836	39	124	
15m	World	ZP0Y	93	1869978	3627	35	139	Op:K4UEE
	Europe	OH6MCW	89	775620	2208	37	102	
	UK	GW8GT	93	601160	1613	35	117	Op:G4IFB
10m	World	CX0CW	90	1890607	3795	39	128	Op:CX8BBH
	Europe	9H1EL	92	794846	2249	39	120	
	UK	G3TXF	89	542572	1334	37	121	
Multi/	World	TA5KA	90	13915044	7201	175	527	
Single	Europe	LZ9A	89	9962386	5342	200	626	
	UK	GW8GT	90	7608432	5206	149	475	
Multi/	World	PJ1B	88	38415760	14921	194	672	
Multi	Europe	LX7A	89	20497632	12735	189	705	
	UK	GW8GT	92	17487927	10250	184	639	

IOTA PUBLICATIONS

"IOTA - 30 YEARS ON"

Now available, the 30th Anniversary Booklet - 56 glossy pages packed with stories about IOTA island operations, articles about the programme, complete IOTA certificate listings (if you have ever received an IOTA certificate your call will be listed), current most wanted islands listings from the IOTA records database, the complete 1994 Honour Roll and Annual Listing with write-up, 58 photographs, glossy colour cover, much new material never previously published.

IOTA DIRECTORY (1995 Edition)

Also now available, the 1995 version of the IOTA Directory! Updated to include the major decisions which are being announced at the HF and IOTA Convention this weekend about the future of the programme. It includes also the new island groups to be added to the island list to replace some unnumbered groups in the list (DXNS 1621 refers). 56 pages covering not only the island list and programme rules but also amended procedures for applying for a certificate or updating. Price for the two together, including postage, UK£11 or US$18 or 27 IRCs (within Europe) or UK£13 or US$22 or 33 IRCs (outside Europe); or individually UK£6 or US$10 or 15 IRCs (within Europe) or UK£7 or US$12 or 18 IRCs (outside Europe), from Roger Balister, G3KMA, La Quinta, Mimbridge, Chobham, Woking, Surrey GU24 8AR, England. (Sorry, no overseas cheques. UK cheques should be made payable to R. Balister.)

CDXC ANNUAL DINNER

** *DATE CHANGE* **

The date of the annual dinner has, regrettably, had to be changed. The Dinner will now take place one week earlier, on Saturday 28th January, at the Boxmoor Lodge Hotel and Restaurant, Hemel Hempstead. The venue has very good access to both the M1 and M25, and is very close to the newly opened stretch of A41. Cost of the meal (Table d'hôte, 3 courses plus coffee) will be £17.50 per head. The restaurant can accommodate 50, so we should be able to accommodate everyone who wishes to come this year. Accommodation is available, at special rates, £30.00 single, and £40.00 for a double. Prices are inclusive of VAT and full English breakfast. Please mention CDXC when booking to get this price. 'Phone no. is 0442 230 770 (Hope I got it right this year!). As we had a number of drop outs last year, a £10.00 per head deposit will be charged this year. Please send cheques, payable to 'CDXC' to the Treasurer, Mike G4PFF.

DX CALENDAR - *Tnx DXNS*

NOW??	A5 BHUTAN
Til Nov 7	V63 by W's
Til Nov 7	BV/N4MQX
Til Nov 7	C5 by G's
Til Nov 8	V29NR
Til Nov 10	ZK2ZE
Til Nov 11	VX3N
Til Nov 11?	KH2/KH0 by JA's
Til Nov 11	FJ by big group
Til Nov 19	VI5AGP
Til Nov 20	5R8DP
Til Nov 30	5X1XT
Til Dec	4L1HX by IK2BHX
Til Dec	DL9GMM/5N0
Til Dec 29	Sp VE pfxs
Til Dec 31	OS prefix
Til Dec 31	OS0OST
Til Dec 31	8J3KYO
Til Feb 20	VP8CQJ
Til Feb	3D2QB
Til Apr	A22MN
Til Mar	VI0ANT
Til 1996	AF-032 5H1JB
Til Aug 96	FH by F5CQ
Nov??	OC-061
Nov 3-8	3D2 by JK2PKT
Nov 4/5??	NA-199
Nov 4-8	1P operations
Nov 6-17	CO IOTA Is
Nov 6-11	K3DI/VP9
Nov 8-12	5W by JK2PKT
Nov 8-14	VP2EDK
Nov 9-11	OC-139
Nov 9-17	J6/DL3KDV
Nov 11-16	A61AD by WB2DND
Nov 11-27	FM by F's
Nov 12-13	WAE RTTY Contest
Nov 13	OK DX Contest
Nov 14-17	CE0AJ
Nov 18-??	V2/G6QQ
Nov 18-Dec 1	J8/DL3KDV
Nov 19-20	Austrian CW Contest
Nov 19-20	RSGB 160m CW Ctst
Nov 19-23	TM5STR
Nov 25-27	NA-066
Nov 26-27	CQ WW CW Contest
Late Nov	FO Austral FO0
Dec 3-4	ARRL 160m Contest
Dec 10-11	ARRL 10m Contest
Dec 23-28	VP8 Falk Is
Dec 26-Jan 1	QRP Winter Contest
1995	FT-Z
Jan 4-19	SOUTH GEORGIA

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Comittee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC. Many of these joined at the Convention; some after operating GB301OTA from their home QTH.

BV4AS	James Chih-Yung Tu, Taichung
DK2OC	Ulrich Adelung, Berlin
G0KIK	Steve Berry, Plymouth
G0KRL	Ian Capin, Bury St. Edmunds
G0MSM	Ronald Cooper, Plymouth
G0SBQ	`Pat O'Riordan, Chelmsford
G3ALI	Ray Small, Stowmarket
G3IZD	Ivan Davies, Barrow in Furness
G3OFW	H.A.C. Blake, Bracknell
G3VJP	John Eden, Solihull
G3VLH	John Longhurst, Crawley Down
G3ZRS	Peter Rodmell, Beverley
G3ZSS	Peter Bacon, Weybridge
G4AAL	John Layton, Bromsgrove
G4FVK	David Sewell, Peterborough
G4HKS	Martin Lynch, Ealing
G4PDQ	John Clayton, Cheltenham
G4TJK	Malcolm Porter, Hook
G6QQ	David Dutton, Norwich
GJ3LFJ	Henry Mesny, St. Lawrence
GM3YTS	Rob Furguson, Dunblane
GM4AUP	Ian Stuart, Airdrie
GW0SLM	Eddie Catherall, Wrexham
GW0UOH	Roger Pritchard, Crickhowell
I1JQJ	Mauro Pregliasco, Torino
I1RBJ	Giancarlo Bavassano, Torino
K7JA	Chip Margelli, Garden Grove, CA

I hope that all of you enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary

15M World Record ZD8Z

From the UK PacketCluster Network

In the 1994 CQWW SSB Contest, Jim Neiger, N6TJ, has smashed the previous 15 SO record with a fantastic scoreof 3.53M. Jim had 178 countries, 36 zones, 5600 Qs.

SCARBOROUGH REEF AND THE BIG PICTURE

An open letter to the DX Community from Chip Margelli, K7JA

The recent BS7H operation, which was organised by the Chinese Radio Sport Association (CRSA), brought together radio amateurs from China, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Philippines and the United States in a unique demonstration of international goodwill through amateur radio. Operating from tiny Huang Yan Dao, also known as Scarborough Reef, this intrepid group's activities are the latest achievement in a remarkable surge of DX activity in China.

My wife Janet, WA7WMB, and I were fortunate to be a small part of the early history of DX operation in China, having joined Tom Wong, VE7BC, and Fred Hammond, VE3HC, in one of the first BY1PK operations in 1984. At that time, we noted a keen interest in the CRSA regarding international communications, DX award activity, and in the notion of the Chinese radio amateur community growing so that the CRSA could take the prominent role in IARU activities that would befit a nation of China's stature.

Although we had dreams in 1984 of seeing a million eager BY stations calling "CQ Contest" in the CQWW, economic and other realities have not yet brought this to pass. However, the last few years have seen a number of encouraging developments, including the licensing of home stations, an increase in the number of university and other club stations being activated, and the appearance of BY DXers on the Internet and other E-mail avenues for DX discussions. We haven't yet seen "Visalia West", but who knows?

Against this backdrop, the CRSAs DX working group put through a tremendous effort to make the BS7H operation happen. With their foreign counterparts, they identified an island - Scarborough Reef - that clearly fell within the DXCC country qualification specifications; they mounted an organisational effort which facilitated licensing of foreigners for an unusual purpose, motivated the Post and Telecommunications Ministry to allow the first-ever use of the BS7 prefix for the benefit of prefix hunters, and they conducted a successful operation, which involved difficult logistical problems. And they recruited a large percentage of the BY/BZ community to assist with various tasks, including promotion and publicity of the event within China - all in the name of the love of DXing.

In short, they did *everything* the world could have dreamed they would do. In ten short years the Chinese went from being a nation with *zero* amateur activity to a nation capable of recognising the importance of DX activity - actually seeking and encouraging international communication from a country which, historically, has been "closed" to a greater or lesser degree. In so doing, they are actively promoting amateur activity in the very amateur bands where unscrupulous Asian enterprises and users are attempting to take over our frequencies for use by their taxi and delivery fleets. Ten metres is a prime example.

The DXAC leadership, in an "internal agenda" vote, is attempting to change the rules which define the size of a country (clearly with the intention of disallowing BS7H credit); I feel this sends an entirely discouraging message to the CRSA and other national bodies like them who wish to be full partners in the DX Fraternity. They have done their homework, played by the rules, and they deserve more respect than they have been afforded. How can we

expect them to become "True Believers" if we slam the door to the DXCC Temple in their face?

I implore active DXers to communicate your support for the concept of fairness to the DXAC, the ARRL Awards Committee, and the ARRL Board of Directors, if necessary. Whatever the world-wide DX community may decide, through open discussion, as to the desired minimum size for a country, the BS7H operation deserves fair consideration for accreditation *pursuant to the rules in force at the time of the expedition.*

Ed: Thanks to DXNS for supplying this article.

FOC IN GHANA

Roger Western, G3SXW

Reprinted from Focus

An all FOC team will operate the CQ World-Wide CW contest from Ghana, on November 25th/27th, signing 9G5NN. All six bands will be used, with three stations, linears, and beams for 40-10m. Outside the contest, priority will be given to the WARC and LF bands, call signs as follows:

G3SXW: 9G5RW, GM3YTS: 9G5RF,
K7GE: 9G5JL, KC7V: 9G5MF, N7BG:9G5TR

QSLs for 9G5NN contest contacts go to G3SXW, and others to the home call of each operator.

CQWW CW - J7

UK PacketCuster Network

Hi guys/guyesses I'll be in Dominica (J7) for the CQWW CW in November. The team should be G4WVX, K1XM, KQ1F, AC1O and K4BAI for multi-single or multi-multi depending on available equipment. I've been loaned an IC-735 but the matching PSU is rather weighty and I'm looking for the loan of a switched mode 20-25A PSU. There is no weight limit problem on most of the route (210 lbs per passenger) but the local flights in the Caribbean are on crop-dusters (Dash-8s really(!)) and there is a 44 lb limit. There isn't an internal PSU option for the 735 and I haven't yet approached ICOM for loan of one from another set (745/751 etc). Any offers or suggestions would be much appreciated. Many thanks de Bruce, G4WVX (@GB7DXI)

WRTC

Dave Lawley, G4BUO

Along with CDXC Member Steve Dove G3YDV (now NM2Y), I was privileged to be in the UK team in the first ever World Radiosport Team Championship held in Seattle in 1990. Plans are well in hand for a second WRTC to be held in the Baltimore/Washington DC area in July 1995, and a great deal of preparatory work has already been put in by a committee co-chaired by K3NA and W6AXX. The organisers in Seattle did a marvellous job in creating the first WRTC, and many of the lessons learned at that time have been noted by their successors on the east coast. WRTC probably came closest to attaining that Holy Grail of contest organisers, which is to conduct a contest under conditions which are equal for all competitors. If conditions are equal, the argument goes, then the winner can be proclaimed as the 'best' contester. I think that Seattle proved that equalisation can only be taken so far. The twenty-two competing teams, each made up of two operators, were distributed around locations within about a 20-mile distance from the city. Each team was provided with identical Icom equipment, but there was considerable variation in the quality of the antenna systems which was available at the different locations, and an attempt to introduce some measure of equalisation by using attenuators had to be abandoned. Anyone who has been to Seattle knows how hilly it is, which introduced further differences between one station and

another. Despite this variation, no-one was in any doubt that the USA team of John K1AR and Doug K1DG were worthy winners. The 1995 event will be on an even bigger scale, with approximately double the number of teams planned. Nevertheless, the recognition seems to be growing that an event like this will be just a 'snapshot' of how the teams make out against one another in a single event, operating from locations not of their choosing. To get a true feeling of which is the 'best' team, the event would have to be run several times with competitors moving from one randomly-chosen location to another. From comments by K3NA on Internet it is clear that the organising committee considered the alternative concept of setting up stations, spaced every 2km or so on a grid pattern, with crank-up towers and identical antennas. They decided, probably wisely, that it would be a Herculean task to set up and maintain in excess of fifty plus stations, complete with operating facilities and reasonable creature comforts. So it looks like the 1995 event, which will be held as part of the IARU Radiosport contest, will suffer many of the same inequalities that were experienced in the first WRTC. Nevertheless, the competitors will have a great time and I suspect that just like in 1990, the socialising before and after the contest itself will be very special. The 1995 WRTC was announced on the cq-contest reflector on Internet and generated much discussion. The organising committee gained a great deal of feedback within a few days, and have been very responsive. One interesting change they have made concerns packet. The original announcement stated that since WRTC teams would be competing in the multi-single section of the IARU contest, they would be permitted to use packet cluster to gather multipliers. A majority on the reflector felt that since WRTC was supposed to be testing operator ability, admittedly in a multi-op situation, use of cluster was inappropriate. It was also pointed out that there are many parts of the world where cluster is non-existent and that teams not from the US or Europe may not have any cluster experience. Participation in the first event was by invitation only. Four US teams were invited, four from the former USSR, two from JA and one each from a selection of other countries. Those not invited felt left out, and this time the committee have clearly wanted to come up with a more objective way of choosing the teams. The original proposal was for teams based on ITU zones but this would have been particularly unfair on European contesters. This has now been changed, and although arrangements for the composition of the teams are not finalised yet, I hope that a UK team can be put together to compete in 1995. My team-mate Steve G3YDV now lives in Pennsylvania and therefore would not qualify, and it is not presently my intention to compete either, so I would be very interested to hear from any experienced contesters who would be interested in taking part in WRTC 1995. I have a full copy of the original announcement, plus updates from K3NA which I will be glad to mail to any CDXC member who may be interested. The goal is to improve on our 7th place gained in 1990!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

To Roger, G3SXW, for winning the ROTAB trophy, and for being awarded the CDXC Award of Excellence for his ZD9 DXpedition.

To Bob, G3PJT, for winning the 1994 Commonwealth Contest, and for being awarded the BERU Rose Bowl

To Steve, GW4BLE, for being highest G in the 1993 CQWW SSB single operator section.

To Dave, G4BUO, for being the highest G in the 1993 CQWW CW single operator section, and to GJ/K2WR for being the highest G in the low power section.

To John, G3WGV and Don, G3XTT operators of G0ULT/P in Reading ARC's fourth consecutive win in the Overall and Open section of HF NFD.

IHFC '94 - A Punter's Perspective

Bob Whelan G3PJT

Although any convention spans many months of preparation, hard work and heartache the sheer emotion and elation of the job well done can be sensed in the first few minutes. So it was with the 1994 HF Convention sponsored by Kenwood and Martin Lynch. As Rosemary and I walked into the bar at 1900 on Friday it was clear that we were in for a great weekend. After finding our room and getting settled we joined the party in the Beaumont bar. A new departure for the HF DXers was the Morris dancing including a horse, and thereby hangs this tale! I expected that there might be some audience participation as it could be a way of involving the spirits to conjure up a contact or two. Especially on 14260, of which more 3 x 3 later. The IOTA crowd were celebrating their 30th birthday and it was sad that Geoff Watts was not there to celebrate his wonderful idea. He was certainly there in spirit, of which there was plenty in evidence! The 'Islans On The Air' birthday cake had evidently been lettered by a dyslexic icer! Roger, G3KMA, discretely cut the cake at the missing letter! The official photographer took a picture of the whole party from the balcony, but I couldn't find out how you could get a copy. The main games of the evening were organised by the new IOTA sponsor, Yaesu. Chip, K7JA, was the MC and he started off with a SSB pile up of 95 callsigns. Out of this, the assembled IOTA types managed to copy the magnificent total of 8, I think they have spent too much time in list and net operations! The next game could be called Desert Island (or should I say Islan') antennas and required teams to put up a makeshift 20m antenna using some bamboo, bits of string and wire. This was won by the team captained by Chris,. the only YL in the game. She told me that it was because she 'knew how to take orders'! Now we know the power behind GJ3OZF! 4Z4DX won the raffle for a VHF (!!) HT (is it true what they say about the Old Testament?). The raffle raised over £500 which was used to buy a FT747 4K4BEU on Dikson Island. Viktor, UT8LL, took it back with him. Look out for some better signals from the Russian Arctic Islands in the near future. 4Z4DX and started off the next game, the ASCII which involved CW sending 'GB301OTA' on a modified loo seat (get it ?). Points were awarded for style and accuracy. Probably more physical exertion than most of the competitors had had all week! Paul, EI5DI is writing an new ASCII interface for contesters to his SD programme. Sounded like he needed to with some of the sounds that people made when it was their turn to sit on the throne. 4Z4DX won this too, God was on his side. Hartmut, DL1VDL, on behalf of DARC, presented a magnificent trophy, a large glass capacitor, to Roger. I bumped into Ghis, ON5NT, and enquired about the DX Quiz, callsigns and questions. He said it was very hard. We will follow his progress. On Saturday the Convention started in earnest, with three parallel sessions you couldn't cover everything so I went to support Roger, G3KMA, in the IOTA session. The new IOTA Development Plan was described by Roger, Neville, G3NUG, and yours truly. This Plan sets out how we see IOTA developing over the next 6 years. New software, tighter validation and faster turn round of updates and awards. After a rather rambling discussion on short operations, 3 x 3 reports, DXpedition validation, weekend or weekday operations and the unfairness of having to work in the week etc. Chip summed it up by saying "there was no obligation to make things fair, if it was fair it wouldn't be fun". This ended the discussion and we took a coffee break! In the coffee break I bumped into Ghis and Fred, G4BWP, talking about a QSL from an island in the DX Quiz, Fred said Ghis had only got the wrong ocean! Later Chip showed the new portable station in a airline carry-on bag which Yaesu has made available to IOTA

expeditioners. This includes FT990, switched-mode PSU (a new design), antenna, key, headphones and mike. Lots of discussion about the set up. Lots more discussion about the cost of QSLs, using the buro should be a condition of IOTA sponsored expeditions etc. , anything to get the cost down. After a good lunch, (you certainly get well fed at these affairs), Mats, ON5KL, tells me that he knows all the answers to the DX quiz! But whether this was to put off Ghis I don't know, who by this time was still saying 'Oh boy, it's hard ", and that he needed some good maps. I directed him upstairs to where the maps were being sold. Rosemary and I went to the holiday DXpedition stream. My idea of a holiday is evidently very different to Larry, K5MK. He went to this island off Costa Rica. After he landed on this deserted island and the boat had departed he had the sixth sensation of not being quite as on his own as he thought. Sure enough after about an hour a large iguana appeared, the size grows with the telling, its up to 4' now. We have only got Larry's word anyway, probably an escapee from Jurassic Park. Larry had positioned the operating table on the iguana's route to and from the sea. Actually the iguana knew a thing or to (and not just about Elizabeth Taylor) as Larry had pitched his tent right at the high water line and at one time during the night it looked as if he might have to do a King Canute. Larry's encounters with wild life continued with his next operation from cooler climes, Macnutt Island. In this case it was the mossies which ate Tom, WT2O, and Larry alive. A strong insect repellent needs to be a part of the IOTA DXpedition kit, Yaesu please note. Larry uses a machete for the bigger animals. Don, G3OZF, then presented the video and slides from the GJ3OZF Minkies operation in the IOTA contest this summer. This was much more my sort of scene, flat calm, blazing sun, blue sea etc. The contrast couldn't have been more marked. The rocks must be fearsome in a storm, especially as the tide changes. Alistair Maclean describes the scene well. During the coffee break I had a chat with Peter, G3ZRS, of Amp UK about a compact amplifier to match the needs of carry on baggage. Peter said he had some ideas which involved 3CX800A7s etc. They sound like my sort of transistors. As I had to give my lecture on phased arrays I had to rush off. I had a packed room, standing on the stairs etc. I still have a few copies of the lecture notes (book) for my lecture if any one wants one (£3 incl. pp). I stopped by Stan, SM7WT, in the corridor who was doing a great trade with books (Thanks to Amateur Radio, Licensing arrangements around the World, How to do CQWW, etc. and CQWW tee-shirts) . So that's my Christmas presents sorted out. Just goes to show, a bit of entrepreneurship goes a long way. And so to the DX Dinner, which I MC'ed again. We had 252, a capacity crowd, and the biggest gathering (ever ?) of DXers in the UK. We had 60+ from outside the UK with big groups from DL, EI and representation from most of Europe. It takes a bit of time for every one to get settled down at one of these affairs, and in the end we had 2 spare seats at the top table. I can only recall bits of the evening. The 3Y0PI stand up was won by Bill, G3MCS, with 15 band mode QSOs. The President of the RSGB, Ian, GM4AUP, related the tale of how he had activated Fair Isle for IOTA only to have Roger, G3KMA, delete it. He had therefore decided to become an Island De-activator and was now proposing to visit all the new islands visited by Martin, G3ZAY, and get those deleted too. Actually I thought that having a de-activator would be a very powerful weapon in the hands of the IOTA Committee. We would have far fewer problems with recalcitrant island activators. The President remarked that his wife had not been able to accompany him but had gone out instead with the milkman. Depending on the milkman, Ian hopes to come again next year. Ian toasted the guests and Dewitt, W4BAA, graciously replied on their behalf. Ian presented the very first Commonwealth Supreme Award to John,

G3AAE, this was a total surprise to John, and so richly deserved. This award is one of the most difficult ones to gain these days. The CW pile up was well received, 10 people had to play 10 calls on recorders at the same time. Some tables managed to copy 6 calls so there is no doubt that CW is the mode for the DX dinner. We auctioned some excess baggage from VP8SSI, Chivas Regal etc. a signed photograph from South Sandwich and a tee-shirt from 3Y0PI. Thanks to all those great sports who kept the bidding going. The proceeds of the DX Dinner auction were split three ways to South Georgia, 3Y0PI and IOTA. My special thanks to Martin Lynch who donated a PK88 on the spur of the moment and who was such good company on our table! The Welsh contingent GW4BLE and 'OVQ donated the bottle of wine they won to the auction too. They had to have a photograph of this as they claimed a gesture of such generosity wouldn't be believed back in the valleys! So back to the bar for more chat, to Roger G3SXW about ZF, contest rigs, antennas, hotels and Sting Ray City. Sounds like a good place. Sunday dawns and I conclude it was definitely past my bedtime when I got to bed earlier. Meet I1RB and his wife on our way to breakfast who tells me they have just come back from 9N and India, sounds like they had a good time. Disaster after breakfast when my camera reset itself and I hadn't got another film. Luckily I bumped into Chris Lorek who very kindly gave me one of his spare rolls of film and I was able to reload ready for the lectures and trophy presentations. Thanks Chris. I overhear Mats, ON5KT, saying that the DX quiz clues contained a specific reference to Thatcher which made it difficult. Yes, we know what he means. I spent Sunday morning in the Contest College hoping to pick up some good ideas. Its clear there is plenty of gamesmanship involved as Chris, G3SJJ, revealed that you had better read the rules for AFS for next year as he had changed the start time to help the GMs. The effect of this was to change some of the advice from G4DJX (?), the next speaker, on how to win AFS! A very clear presentation from Roger, G3NLY, on HP FD, 13 KVA generators and £20 caravans, but above all good planning and a well organised and motivated team. Dave, G3NKC, showed some of the operating patterns in NFD. I couldn't see much of a pattern myself, yet it was clear that band changing strategy has a big impact on winning. So onto the trophy presentations and my big moment, the Senior Rose bowl for the win in the Commonwealth Contest 1994, from Bermuda and the QTH of VP9AD. The Bowl looked very nice until Rosemary said that we need some new furniture to set it off properly. There goes the new amplifier. My thanks to VP9AD for making the win possible, and as Fred, G4BWP, said to me, winning makes all the effort worthwhile. The IOTA vase for the leading station in 1993 went to CS4B and was presented to CT4NH for a great effort. More contacts were made in this single contest than all the other RSGB 1994 contests together. Wow! Peter, G3KDB, showed off the new DXNS trophy for the leading UK SSB island station. This will be awarded next year. The ROTAB trophy went to Roger, G3SXW. Chat to Paul, EI5DI and Pat, he says they have had a good convention, just as well to pay for the shopping. In case you get the wrong idea it was a new rig. It was glorious weather so we go and sit outside in the Beaumont gardens for some fresh air. And contemplate whether we could get some of the specimen trees to grow in our garden in Cambridge. And so back for the 3Y0PI lecture from Peter, ON6TT. He opened with a short video of the first storm, terrifying, shrieking wind, whirling snow, hunched figures from Scott of the Antarctic. I was reminded of the description of the weather by Cherry-Gerrard in 'The worst journey in the world' (worth reading) and amused by Peters tee-shirt the front of which had the advert Shackleton placed in the Times for members of one of his expeditions. The scenery was stunning, the risks all too obvious, the

planning meticulous and the success clear. Peter talked about the problems of financing such an expedition, the need for a new type of sponsor and I suppose the inevitable broadening of appeal necessary for that to take place. The snow rising up the tent walls and the generators sinking into the snow. The antennas which fell down and those that didn't. Buy Honda generators and Kenwood radios. And the home truths about operating behaviour, you can work 6-8 US stations per minute but only 1-2 Europeans. But don't believe all you hear about the Japanese, the big signals are very good but the rest are difficult, just like the Europeans. The UK is in Europe and the 10m SSB opening to G saw some of the worst G behaviour heard for some time, repeated calling, the whole bit. I heard this opening myself, it was bad news. I hoped there were no CDXC members misbehaving. Unfortunately I hear there were. Peter commented that they had no problems like this on CW. For me, the more DXpeditions operate on CW, the better. The clean up of Peter 1 was very through, the loo, the human waste and all the chicken wire. As Peter commented 'we don't want an archaeologist visiting Peter 1 in 1000 years and thinking that we kept chickens there!' Peter said that he doubted that there would be a big expedition in 1995 but that there would be a big one in 1996. I guessed the correct number of satellite Qs and won a piece of Peter 1. We took a last tour round, had a chat with Tim, G4VXE, VE3EJ op in the Commonwealth, and had a look at the log. He worked things I didn't hear! But as I suspected the late G run I had on 20m on the Saturday was the decisive factor between us in my favour. Mike, G3UOF, won the raffle for the Kenwood TS50, and Ghis won the DX quiz. Roger, G3LQP, summed it up nicely ' I don't know how you make it better year after year, but you do, thanks and see you all again.'

Suffice it to say that a convention needs a lot of effort, a lot of which comes from family members of CDXC. So thanks to Beryl and Ann for selling raffle tickets, to Mandy for the entrance desk and to Gill & Rosemary for the Ladies programme.

A GUIDE TO TRAVELLERS (New Customs Regulations)

Mike Potter, G4PFF

Having recently upgraded my station with a new rig (FT990) & new antenna (A3S), the next logical step seemed to be a linear! With the PFF Piggy Bank running on empty and now having had all my Birthday and Christmas presents in advance to at least the year 2000, a bargain had to be found. Why not a holiday in the States and save a fortune by buying over there ? Good idea agrees Ann my XYL as long as there is a reciprocal deal on her spending power. So a great vacation is planned, yet another visit to Florida. Make certain to fly scheduled as they let you bring loads more back! I am welcomed like an old friend at the AES store in Clearwater, nothing like as big or smart as Martin's emporium and you need to know what you want before going in. Looking at their price list I notice that the Japanese gear is not far away from our UK prices nowadays if you take Import Duty and VAT into account and they won't haggle. So what did I buy & what did I pay? Ameritron AL811 600 watt HF Linear. UK Price £839 US Price £412 (Equivalent) Timewave DSP 9+ Noise Reduction Filter UK Price £239 US Price £156 (Equivalent)

Total saving £510

Based on previous trips I had expected to pay all the required duties and VAT when I got back to UK but was I in for a shock? Arriving at Gatwick and deciding that the XYL could not pass off a 24 inch square box as her handbag, although she could easily fill a handbag that size! Play it cool and go through the Red channel. While waiting for friendly Customs Officer think about how little duty I will have to pay based on the calculation that we each have £136

allowance and of course XYL has bought nothing in USA!!!!! At last friendly Customs Officer is available, "and what have we here Sir?" "An amplifier for Amateur Radio use" says I confidently "complete with a signal processor". "I expect you are aware of the allowances but just in case let me show you this" he says producing a printed notice. This is not looking good (XYL says later that a certain loss of colour occurred at that point.) Notice states that under EC rules allowances have been changed and no longer can you bring in an item costing more than £136 and consolidate your individual allowances. You have to pay duty on the whole amount with no allowance at all. I decided that the ignorant humble traveller look was needed on this occasion and amongst muttering of only doing your job but try to lighten the load etc. Paid £55, not bad but a warning to others unaware of the new Regulations that came into effect on 1st April this year. Was it worth it ? Yes, I saved £410 on the deals but I believe it is marginal and not worth the risk of warranty etc. on some of the Japanese equipment unless you can fix it yourself and even then the prices here are now much more competitive than a few years ago. Both items I bought are made in USA and that appears to be a major factor. I do believe the importer of the Linear I bought is making a killing at the price asked here. So if you fancy a Linear and saving enough for 1 person's Fly Drive fare think about it! I'm really looking forward to my next Christmas present about 2005

For completeness I repeat below the text from the Customs leaflet "A guide to travellers " dated 7/94

For travellers arriving from outside the EC

"All other goods" If you bring something in worth more than the limit of £136, you will have to pay charges on the FULL value, not just on the value above £136. If you are travelling as a family or group, you cannot pool your individual allowances towards an item worth more than the limit. You will have to pay charges on the FULL value of the item.

73 Mike G4PFF

MARTIN LYNCH OPEN DAY

To celebrate, in style, his fourth year of trading, Martin Lynch (advertiser in this Newsletter, and sponsor of the RSGB International HF and IOTA Convention) will be holding an open day on 26th November 1994. The shop will be open from 8.00am until 8.00pm. Yaesu (UK) Ltd will also be celebrating their first year of trading, and Barry Cooper of Yaesu, together with several other international Yaesu officials, will join Martin, and will be available throughout the day, as will representatives from all the other leading manufacturers.

This event promises to be as much of a success as last year's open day, when thousands of people grabbed tens of thousands of pounds worth of equipment at virtually trade prices. There will be *special prices* on all HF equipment and accessories to CDXC members. So, come along and join the fun!

Membership List Changes

The following changes to the CDXC membership list have been notified:

G0HGW:
ROBERT THAIN, CHURCH FARM COTTAGE, Gt. EVERSDEN, CAMBS, CB3 7HU. 0223 263 372

G3NKQ:
C. R. BURCHELL, 4 BAKERS WAY E.PERRY HUNTINGDON, CAMBS. PE18 0BS. 0480 810473

GM3BQA: Phone no is 0620 892 519

JP1NWZ:
YOICHI SAKURADA, 2-9-7-101 NAMIKI KANAZAWA-Ku 236, YOKOHAMA CITY, JAPAN 81 45 785 1542

Ed: I will publish a completely revised membership list in the January Newsletter, including the names and addresses of recent new members.

SMOM 1994

Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ

The medieval origins of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta date back to the middle of the XI century, when a Hospital, dedicated to St. John the Baptist and entrusted to the Benedictine Order, was founded in Jerusalem. After the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099, the Hospital passed from the Benedictines into the hands of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John. The brand new Order, though retaining the pristine charitable functions, acquired a more and more marked - eventually prevalent and acknowledged by the Pope - military character, in armed defence of Christendom against the "infidels".

In 1291, after the fall of Akko, the Order moved to Cyprus and afterwards, at the beginning of the XIV century, it settled in Rhodes, where the Order's sovereignty, originated by the many feudal privileges granted to it, acquired a territorial character. The Knights of Rhodes carried on their mission up to 1522, when Solyman defeated them and conquered the island. In 1530, thanks to the Emperor Charles V, the Order eventually moved to Malta, where it remained till the end of the XVIII century. Afterwards the Order had various temporary sees and in 1834 ended by settling definitively in Rome.

Nowadays SMOM, as a fully independent entity and under the provisions of international law, maintains diplomatic relations with many countries as well as with the main international organisations. His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master of the Order rules over a world-wide organisation devoted exclusively, as its nine hundred years old predecessor, to provide assistance in several social fields.

With regard to amateur radio, 1A0KM was aired for the first time fourteen years ago and SMOM entered the DXCC Countries List on 29 September, 1981. SMOM is at the same time an easiest and most difficult place to operate from. It may somehow be defined as an "urban island", because of the extraterritoriality enjoyed by its See on the Aventino, but of course the brave DXpeditioners are denied the thrilling experience of a sea voyage with its more or less pleasant corollaries, the only challenge being issued by Rome's traffic jam.

However, unlike the other "urban islands" counting separately as DXCC Countries, SMOM is unique in its kind, since it tantalises the potential operators' enthusiasm and goodwill by an unusual combination of accessibility and unapproachableness. In fact, what makes SMOM a "rare" Country, thus giving rise to big pile-ups when it is aired, is the extreme parsimony with which the permissions to operate are granted.

As notoriously happens in several other "difficult" Countries, amateur radio is not encouraged, amateur radio is tolerated from time to time, and radio amateurs must therefore act according to the utmost professionality and discretion, principles directed to safeguard the peace and the time-honoured dignity of the See. That means that radio amateurs, who should be keenly aware of the hospitality granted to them, must install their equipments in the most discreet way they can. Villa Malta, i.e. the SMOM headquarters in Rome, and the surrounding beautiful garden should bear no visible sign of their presence. Of course it was a pleasure for us to spend the breaks in the park, whose farthest corner faces Rome's astonishing sight, but, with regard to our activity, we were confined in the ground-floor storeroom where we had been allowed to set up our four stations - anyhow, nothing to be complained about, since our very personal idea of amusement had its centre of gravity exactly in that room.

The only problem was that also our antennas, as far as possible, had not to be in contrast with dignity of the place, and that meant positively no beams or dipoles on the roof, no unaesthetic towers in the garden, etc.

The place we were allowed to put the 3el tribander was a long narrow passage between a thick 6 metres high hedge on one side and a solid 6 metres high wall on the other. Since it had to be as invisible as possible, we raised the antenna, by means of a pneumatic pole, just higher than the hedge & wall. Though fairly free when beaming north, south and west, the antenna had, on its eastern side just beyond the wall, a church, which surely did not co-operate to strengthen our signals.

Similarly concealed between the hedge and the wall and peeping above them, was the Cushcraft R5, which gave us great satisfactions on 12, 17 and, thanks to the antenna tuner, 30 metres. The second vertical antenna (HyGain 14AVQ for 10, 15, 20 and 40 metres) was placed at the extreme end of the garden, concealed by another hedge but standing out against Rome, which lies at the foot of the Aventino hill. We also used a Fritzel FD4 (especially on 80 metres, but it was really too low and close to the wall to work properly) and a 4el for 50 MHz.

We set up four stations that could be active simultaneously: TS850S/TL922, TS940S/FL2100, IC729/SB200 and IC781. Our main aim was to give as many people as possible their all-time new one, so that we concentrated on 20 and 40 metres. We were also able to work a little RTTY and to make a score of contacts on RS-12. Our breakdowns are the following:

Band	CW	SSB	RTTY
160	16	106	-
80	12	168	-
40	1512	1242	-
30	478	-	-
20	3421	6597	217
17	519	1220	-
15	732	924	-
12	316	361	-
10	287	772	-
6	-	220	-
RS-12	-	18	-
Total	7293	11628	217
=19138 QSOs			

Eight operators, four local and four coming from different parts of Italy, alternated in the shack. Francesco Valsecchi, IK0FVC and Luciano Blasi, I0JBL were the team leaders. Francesco, who also "created" HV4NAC, made the first QSO, with VK7BC on July 1 at 6z, an honour he thoroughly deserved, because the permission to operate was granted thanks to his continuous efforts. More than one year and a half elapsed between the first and the final steps, and we are grateful to him for never giving up, even when it seemed there was no hope left. DXers should also note (and appreciate) that Francesco succeeded in getting SMOM on the air for six days, thus giving them reasonable chances to work 1A0KM on several bands/modes.

Luciano - an experienced DXer who, incidentally, is the Italian PacketCluster co-ordinator as well - operated SSB and RTTY. He had already aired SMOM on three different occasions and both the other two operators from Rome were veterans of SMOM as well: Ugo Cartia, I0CUT, who had been the first one to sign 1A0KM on 50 MHz, operated on SSB and 6 metres, while Bartolomeo "Meo" Furino, I0ER was active on SSB and closed down the operations making the last QSO, with PA0LSB on July 7 at 10z.

Paolo Cortese, I2UIY kept the contacts with the Northern California DX Foundation, which sponsored our activity. Paolo, a keen contester who is the Italian HF Contest Manager, operated on SSB and CW, trying to log as many Stateside stations as well. Giorgio Beretta, I2VXJ, is a first-rate CW operator. Very fond of contests, he was twice in Somaliland and once in Cameroon, where he signed T5GG and TJ1GG respectively as a guest operator.

Paolo and Giorgio reached Rome on July 3, when other two operators, Massimo Mucci, I8NHJ, who had been operating on CW, and I, had already gone back home. Massimo is very skilful on CW, and in 1993 won the CQWW as single operator low power all bands signing EL2PP as a guest operator. And finally myself: though keenly fond of DXing, 1A0KM has been the first major operation I took part in "on the other side of the barricade". I had fun and greatly enjoyed a pile-up that, on several occasions, allowed me to attain the fairly good ratio of 300+ contacts/hour.

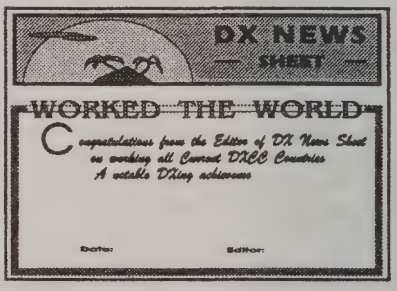
Many people complained that we had not provided advance publicity of our operation through the usual channels. Being personally involved both as the editor of a DX bulletin (425 DX News, which is sent on the BBS and PacketCluster networks) and an operator from SMOM, I must say that we took the decision of keeping silent by mutual consent. First of all, we did not want to cause any further disappointment, as it had already happened when a previously planned and duly publicised operation had to be cancelled owing to a cause beyond our control. Secondly, we were not going to be active for a couple of days only: a "surprise DXpedition" taking place over a weekend may surely give raise to much disappointment and many complaints, but that was not the case.

Last but not least, we should like to thank those very co-operative friends who helped us in many ways: Rusty Epps, W6OAT and Jack Troster, W6ISQ, of the Northern California DX Foundation; Roberto Sancandi, IK2OQB for providing us with the Cushcraft R5 and Giuseppe Braghetti, I0JI for lending one of his most effective pneumatic poles; Luigi Seccia, IK2VJF for getting a professional video out of our amateurish shootings; Ottavio Bevione, IK1PML for printing the QSL cards in less than two weeks. By the way, the QSL manager is IK0FVC, who will answer to everybody direct or through the bureau.

And of course thanks to you all, for answering to our "QRZ?". We do hope you had as much fun as we had - and, as I2UIY is used to saying, "if you have enjoyed it, let us know, if not, please keep it strictly for you".

DO *YOU* QUALIFY

This award cannot be bought, or earned through "sponsors" but is totally free of charge! It simply has to be earned! Instituted in 1991, the multi-colour certificate has so far been awarded to 34 G's, 2 GW's and 1 GM. Of those, 17 are members of CDXC. To qualify for the award you must have ALL current DXCC countries worked and have demonstrated high operating standards on the HF DX - bands. If you think you qualify, please apply to DXNS Office.



RAMBLINGS OF A DX EDITOR

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

Firstly a few updates on the last issue of the Newsletter.

1. The 50 copies which were made of the US video of the 3Y0PI DXpedition have all been sold and it is not proposed to have further copies made as the response was somewhat disappointing compared to that for the VP8SSI video. I thought the Peter 1 tape would have sold as well, but it didn't - possibly because the excellent European version produced by ON6TT had already been on sale for many weeks by the time the US version became available. Also the NTSC Master tape was lost in the post, which immediately lost us a substantial European market. However, $500 will be going to the 3Y0PI Team, which is not to be sneezed at. To get the full flavour of the DXpedition it is necessary to watch both videos but whichever one you watch you will be impressed with the dedication, stamina and sheer cold nerves of those taking part. Most of the remaining 3Y0PI books were sold at the HF Convention - there are just five unsold copies remaining in the whole world - they are all at the DXNS Office. If you want one, send £27 *now*; cheques payable to B J McCartney

2. The operators for the forthcoming South Georgia DXpedition will almost certainly fly via South America rather than via the UK. In one of his update telephone calls to DXNS Al Hernandez explained that the RAF flights at that time of the year (late December/early January) are, not surprisingly, usually fully booked and, with the ship chartered, he could not afford to be stranded in the wilds of Oxfordshire - wise indeed! Support (financial) is desperately needed if this operation is to be a success and it was great to hear the news that the signed VP8SSI photograph provided by Al had sold so well at the DX Dinner at the HF Convention. (It was a relief to get rid of that 3Y0PI booze too - it had been stored in my shack and the temptation had been *very* great.)

Interesting to read the details of the running costs of a Cluster node (GB7DXH Support Group, September Newsletter). Makes you wonder why so many people - some CDXC members included - persist in wasting valuable time and someone else's electricity with so many mundane spots! 1B doesn't count for DXCC, nor does 3V8AS, yet hardly a day passes without spots on these two appearing; and how about some of the "non-DX" spots - W's on 20m, etc.? I'm convinced that a number of Cluster users suffer from "keyboard diarrhoea" and simply can't keep their fingers still..... e.g. the guy who spots a DL on 20m and adds "sorry, all I can find"!!!! Please - you don't HAVE to spot anything and every spot adds to the electricity bill for your Cluster SYSOP - think about it.

There were two important decisions by ARRL in the last month - rejecting claims for DXCC status for 1B and P5RS7. I got into a lot of hassle when I commented on the doubtful DXCC position of 1B in DXNS so I am not about to stir things up again, except to say: *"told you so!"* The P5 decision is of greater importance because North Korea has already been declared a DXCC country, needing just a valid operation to take place for it to be added to the Countries List. There have been several apparent amateur operations using P5 callsigns but none has satisfied ARRL. Romeo's P5RS7 operation came under considerable scrutiny and arguments about his other operations will rage for years. It seems likely that special attention was paid to the P5RS7 operation following pressure on ARRL for the comparative ease with which they accepted the XY0RR operation. I refuse to speculate on whether XY0RR took place from within Myanmar (Burma). I worked it, ARRL accepted it and it put me and many others atop Honor Roll - end of story! However,

many top- level DXers believe that ARRL should have taken greater trouble to check the documentation with Yangon before accepting it. It is unlikely that we shall ever know the truth so it's best forgotten. There is still no progress on the paperwork for Romeo's last DXpedition - 5A0RR - and I doubt if it will ever count. But, DXers are believers so keep your fingers crossed. Meanwhile, Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, who collected donations for the P5RS7 operation is returning all those over $6 and has issued the following statement:

"The DXpedition of Romeo have included YA0RR, IS0RR, XY0RR, P5RS7 and 5A0RR. Though the early DXpeditions were approved for DXCC credit, P5RS7 and 5A0RR have not been. Now it has been announced that P5RS7 will not be allowed for DXCC credit.

"I co-ordinated P5RS7 in co-operation with Romeo, because Romeo had obtained a licence and shown it to me in order to receive support. The licence was in the form of diplomatic documents between the Ministry of Defence of the Ukraine and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including clear statement that amateur radio would be exceptionally permitted. Of course it had signatures as well as the official seal. (A similar licence had been used for the XY0RR operation).

"Later, we found that the P5RS7 operation was actually done from Lebediny (42°35'N 134°40'E) in Russian territory. This is located 20 kms north of Hassan, the border city between Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"As a result of this discovery, it appears that the documents mentioned above may have been counterfeit.

"I was taken in, and you, the DXer, were taken in as well."

Incredibly, around the time of this disclosure DXNS received a FAX from Ray, HS0/G3NOM, advising that he and two JA ops had completed a remarkable demonstration of amateur radio to government officials in Yangon (Rangoon). Using the callsign XY1HT Ray and his friends worked stations in seven countries using SSTV and SSB. Although QSL cards were despatched immediately to those fortunate enough to have secured a contact, no claim for DXCC status is to be submitted for the operation.

Paul Bavassano has stirred up tremendous interest in Seborga and many top DXers are joining the fun by operating from the Principality. Whether it will count for DXCC remains to be seen but personally I would rather see a place like Seborga on the list than a tiny rock in the middle of the Pacific which requires the erection of a scaffold before anyone can land on it. For one reason, Seborga is likely to appear on the bands more often than Santa Maria Reef, or some equally remote spot! I have a Seborga car registration plate in my shack; maybe that should be the new criteria for a

DXCC country??!! Some of Paul's fellow DXers have complained to ARRL about the Seborga operation, protesting that the prefix 1P is unofficial and has not been issued by ITU. Paul says that those who have complained loudest also happen to be among the calls on page 1 of the Seborga log. Hi!!

Jim Smith was on the phone a day or two ago; slow progress is being made with A5 but he is hopeful that an invitation to operate will be forthcoming in the near future. Jim keeps the DX media regularly updated with his intentions so watch your weekly DX bulletin for the latest news.

Lastly, as a Founder Member of CDXC may I record my congratulations to club member Roger Western, G3SXW, who received the prestigious RSGB ROTAB Trophy at the recent HF Convention. You will all have worked Roger during one or more of his fabulous DXpeditions. Roger is one of those rare individuals who puts back more into amateur radio than he can ever hope to get back and in being awarded ROTAB he deservedly joins the true elite in British Amateur Radio. Well done, sir!

I trust everyone had a great time at Windsor. October is a very important time for bird-watchers and Ruth and I, being "twitchers", spent the weekend trudging the north Norfolk coast searching for migrants - we got three new ones. If you think Honor Roll is difficult you ought to try bird-watching - we're around 240 with only about 10,000 to go - and there's NO honour roll!

See you in the pile-ups?

CONTENTS

The addition of a contents page in this issue was the idea of Roger Western, G3SXW. What do you think? Is it useful? - a waste of space? - should it have author's call signs? Please let me know.

Alan , G3PMR.

Mount Athos - The Last Surviving Fragment of the Byzantine Empire.

Adapted from an article in the Daily Telegraph by Ken Griffiths.

Mount Athos - one of the few European DXCC countries which is guranteed to generate a pile up of Europeans, and which also seems to generate a not inconsiderable amount of controversy. The following is based on an article I found in *The Daily Telegraph* some weeks ago, and thought it would give CDXC members some intersesting background to this relatively rare DXCC country.

Known to the Greeks as Aghion Oros, or the Holy Mountain, Mount Athos is the world's only monastic state: a remote peninsula in northern Greece. Here, 1700 monks keep alive the last vestiges of the Byzantine empire, and act as the spiritual guardians of the Eastern Orthodox Church. They practise an ascetic life of prayer and fasting that has remained unchanged for more than ten centuries. Until recently, this life of devotion was under serious threat. Having survived successive waves of Crusaders, Saracens, Franks, Turks and Nazis, the Holy Mountain was falling victim to old age. As monks died, their numbers were no longer being replenished by younger recruits.

The numbers speak for themselves. In the 16th century there were 4,000 monks here. By 1903, that number had risen to 7,432. Yet, by 1965, the population had plummetted to 1,491, and the average age was over 70.

In recent years, however, Athos has undergone an astonishing renaissance. Young monks and novices are flocking to the monasteries, and the average age is now a healthy 50. The monastery of Simonaspetras has a long waiting list, and as Eastern European countries once again establish religious freedoms, there is sure to

be an even greater influx of non-Greek monks.

Tourists (that includes DXpeditioners!) are not welcome on Athos; all women (and even female animals) have been banned since the tenth century. The only recorded incident of a woman coming was when an English aristocrat, Lady Stratford de Redcliffe, dressed as a man, and smuggled herself onto Athos in the Twenties.

The Holy Mountain has a special status within the European Union, which recognisies it as a semi-autonomous state. The land border with Greece is closed, and the only way to arrive is by boat.

Kayres, the capital of Mount Athos is in reality a tiny village, with a single cobbled street, and a few shops, selling everything from monastic robes to incense. It is the spiritual, as well as the monastic, heart of Athos, for it is here that the ruling assembly, elected by the monks, oversees the direction of the Holy Mountain.

One of Athos' burning issues is the balance of economy and ecology. They have realised that the felling of heavy timber, which is essential to the economic survival of the Holy Mountain, is in danger of ruining the landscape for ever. In recent years, trees have been chopped down at an alarming rate, destroying not only forests, but unique wild life as well.

The problem now facing the Holy Mountain is how else to finance the upkeep of the buildings.. In the past monasteries derived income from the vast estates they owned in Thrace, Macedonia, Romania, and Russia. As these lands were gradually confiscated, Athos has had to fall back on its own resources.

At last, help is at hand! Under a scheme organised by the Worldwide Fund for Nature, trees are now being felled on a rotational cycle, at a self-sustaining rate. Since HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, chairman of the WWF, visited Athos in November 1992, to speak about conservation, other schemes have been initiated. After all the threats to 1000 years of Orthodox monasticism, the future of Mount Athos appears to have been secured, at leat for another generation.

WHO INVENTED SLIM?

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD

Having committed myself to carry the torch of enlightenment, I got right to work. Actually, I feared I might forget if I dallied. Inevitably, one learns much of the folklore of Amateur Radio. Once this is learned, further knowledge will not be needed. Once the folklore has been learned, one has entered the ranks of those in the know. Absolutely! Back in the '60s, the usual term for a DX charlatan was either a "pirate" or a "phoney". Some said that these terms were heard shortly after Guglielmo Marconi, of the County Wexford Jameson family, hurled his kW signal across the Atlantic. For years the term endured. Those in the know knew what a pirate was. Others less well informed naturally thought that it was a ball-player from downtown Pittsburgh. The argument often rotated, not around what a pirate was but rather who was right. Contesters are always righteous, contesters are always in the know. And that is the way it has always been. In later years, the QRPers would come up the hill asking, "Who is Slim? Where did he come from? Who first thought of calling a pirate 'Slim'?" To all of these questions we

would respond in well-rounded phrases expounding at length on the Mysteries of the Ages but telling nothing. Frankly, we did not know. For us, Slim came on the scene when Surtsey Island (EU-071!!) was featured in an article in *National Geographic* back in the '60s. it was a new island south of Iceland, thrust up from beneath the open ocean by volcanic activity. In those days, we were publishing the *West Coast DX Bulletin*, long gone from the ken of amateurs. Within weeks of the *Geographic* article, we got a call at the office. It was one of the Local QRPers, this one running hardly 5 kW, and we were breathlessly told that a new country was on the air, that it was Cray Island south of Iceland, newly emerged from the sea. The operator was Slim and he was signing 8X8A. This was solid information and not open to dispute. We tried, noting that not only did the whole thing not ring right, but perhaps the prefix might be checked as a cross-reference. My cautious and calming words fell on deaf ears. This caller was a believer. One learns that in Contest operating as well as in DXing, one has to be a believer. And the stronger your faith, the louder will be your signals and the greater your triumph. Always be a believer! Live in faith! I was frankly asked: "What the hell do you know about it and what makes you think it's a phoney? The operator even told me to look up the *Geographic* article on Surtsey Island. Maybe you didn't see that one?" We had. But it was hardly proof that Cray Island was the needed True-Blue. But one should always make a reconnaissance before the battle. We rushed home for a number of reasons. First, to check the International Prefix Assignments in the back of the *Handbook*; second, to warm up the rig if this might even hint at legitimacy. Checking the ARRL Bible showed that the 8X8 prefix was in the block assigned to India, 8TA-8YZ. Slim was on for a couple of days and then vanished into the folklore of Amateur Radio. But having a penchant for calling most everything by some label other than it's usual name, we moved to use "Slim" any time we were writing about a suspect operation. It not only personified the individual, it also left little doubt of the intended meaning in the minds of those in the know. When we said Slim was active, no one went to the sports pages to see how the Pirates were doing. They knew. Who invented the term "Slim"? That's an easy question to answer. In my mind, it was the operator of 8X8A on Cray Island back in the late '60s. But who is Slim? Ha! Some things you have to learn on your own. The clues are given; it will be up to you to follow up and identify Slim. Slim lived on the gullibility of those wishing to believe. If you need it bad enough you will believe anything. And there is nothing wrong with that. However, one should not extend complete trust until the QSL has been accepted by the DXCC Desk. Be a Believer! Work 'em first and worry later. But always be a sceptical believer. If there is a dissonance in the ringing signal, still work them. But save the joy until later. Do me a favour. Let me know when you identify him. In the *West Coast DX Bulletin* the term was picked up and popularised. It was not used in a context to identify a phoney prior to that time, as far as I know. Some may raise a hand and point to themselves, perhaps as those false prophets do that we are supposed to avoid, and say they alone invented the term. And kindly direct your plaudits in their direction. I would strongly doubt, perhaps even strongly dispute, any such claims. I am even more strongly convinced that none can prove such claims. Let's say Slim is the Bigfoot of Amateur Radio. His tracks are often noted, but he's never seen. But believe. Slim lives! Believe that Slim was the first to put Cray Island on the air. The DXAC has yet to rule unfavourably on that.....

Thanks to Bren, G4DYO, for submitting this piece.

CDXC - THE EARLY DAYS

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO
Founder Member

It was with enormous pride that I learned that CDXC was to receive the prestigious Al Slater G3FXB Memorial Trophy from FOC. I heard the news "in advance" and it took considerable willpower to remain silent until the information was officially released. It was a great privilege, but a little disappointing, to be the only member of the original group to be present at the FOC Dinner when the award was made to CDXC President Roger Balister, G3KMA by Al's widow Maud. It's ten years since CDXC was "formalised", but nearly twenty since the seeds were first sown by a small group of G's living in the Thames Valley area who used to meet on 2m for the purpose of talking HF DX..... G3HCU, G3VLW/M, G3VKW, G3YJI, G4DYO and one or two others. The group used several frequencies before settling with 144.525 FM, when other local DXers joined the fun.... G3GIQ, G3KMA, G3LQP, G3MCS, G3OZF, G3PEC, G3RUR, G3XJS, G3YMC, G4LJF, etc.

In the early days there was a very effective "two bells" system. If the phone rang just twice you got on 2m pronto, and the system really worked. Pitcairn was a much needed country for me, but whenever Tom, VR6TC, was QRV I seemed to be at work which was somewhat of a pain. One morning as I was stepping from the shower the phone rang twice. New members should now understand that "two bells" was *never* ignored so, wringing wet, I rushed for the shack which, fortunately, is located conveniently close to the bathroom, and announced my presence on '525 as my hands flashed at lightning speed to fire up the HF rig. *"Tom's on 14178 Bren"*, called one of the locals. I switched on 20m, listened, heard nothing on 14178 so called VR6TC "in the blind". Tom came straight back and I had made the much wanted contact. To this day Tom Christian remains the only DX station I have worked whilst totally nude. He's lucky it wasn't an eyeball QSO!

Senior members don't needed to be reminded of the activities of G3VLW/M - a True-Blue DXer and one of the nicest guys anyone could wish to meet. Operating both VHF and HF from his TV repair van Chris often put the Big Guns to shame by beating them in the pile-ups! Chris knew the neighbourhood intimately and often, following a bruising in a pileup when he had beaten us hands down, we found out that he'd been parked on a bridge over a river with a solid iron building behind him, giving about 80dB of gain to his modest mobile whip!! One morning when Tom Christian was 59 on 20m I asked him if he could hear the mobile on the frequency. Chris got about 58 from Tom, who mistakenly thought Chris was /MM off the coast of Pitcairn! Chris's explanation that he was actually in a traffic jam on the M4 near Maidenhead resulted in a very long pause - no doubt while Tom picked himself up off the floor!

One of my "bogey" countries was the Solomon Islands and Dave, VR4DN seemed to be active whenever I wasn't. One day, whilst on the way to work, I was talking with G3MCS and G3VLW/M on 2m when Bill alerted Chris to Dave's presence of on 15m. Chris just happened to be in one of his "mega-propagation" locations - on the bridge over the M4 at Maidenhead - and it wasn't long before he was exchanging 59 reports with the VR4. Bill - bless his cotton socks - kindly relayed the QSO to me over 2m at precisely the instant I was driving under the bridge where Chris was sitting. The language which issued forth from G4DYO/M is totally unprintable but even now I recall the overwhelming desire for a Howitzer on the roof of the car!!

It was around the same time that Jim, VK9NS and Ann, F6CYL went to Cocos

(Keeling) Island, which was high on many wanted lists. After a few days most of us had made it on 10, 15 & 20m but, surprisingly, Chris was having severe problems, having tried every salt-water lake and iron building for miles around without any success in the huge pile-ups. Ann often showed on 15m around 1400 and with just a day or two left of the operation Chris, in desperation, was going to pop in to my place one afternoon to try and knock it off as G3VLW/A. All ears were on 21245; Chris was less than a mile from here and tension on 2m was electric....

Suddenly Ann's voice appeared on 15: *"Anyone using this frequency?"*

Faster than a falling tower Chris grabbed the mic of his TS520: *"G3VLW Mobile, Ann...."*.

"G3VLW/M from VK9YL, 59, QSL?"

We didn't have the full Intensive Care Unit up and running in those days, but a schooner of Bristol Cream awaited a trembling G3VLW when he came down the drive 2 minutes later!!

Lord alone knows if any TVs ever got repaired.

True-Blue DXers can't afford to be away from the action for a minute and being at work was no good reason for not monitoring '525 ; I always had my 2m hand-held at the ready, even if hearing what was happening on HF did bring on the odd nervous breakdown. In the early 80's we became quite friendly with Gerry, ZL2BFU, a keen DXer who kept us abreast of happenings in the Antipodes. One day I checked in on '525 from the 7th floor rest-room at Heathrow Tower and Bill, G3MCS asked me if I wanted a quick word with Gerry. With careful juggling of his HF and 2m speakers and mics Bill became the perfect relay station and a 59+ QSO resulted. A colleague of mine asked to whom I was speaking so I asked Gerry to confirm his QTH - *"Sure Bren, Masterton on the north island of New Zealand."* The effect was dramatic! I later told Gerry what had been happening but I never let on to my work colleague.

And how about the extraordinary events of 1983, soon after BY1PK first appeared on the air? During his daily work in the field of international satellite communications past CDXC member and world-renowned QSL Manager Roger Brown, G3LQP, frequently spoke with his opposite number in Beijing. One day, without the slightest expectation of success, Roger asked his Chinese colleague to pass a list of callsigns of CDXC members to the BY1PK station and tell them that we would be listening on 21090 each morning. Never in his wildest dreams did Roger expect a result..... yet a few days later at the appointed hour we heard "G3LQP, G3LQP, G3LQP de BY1PK, K". Poor Roger - a lifelong CW operator both professionally and as a radio amateur, could hardly control his trembling fist! For the next few weeks BY1PK religiously worked down the list of CDXC members until we had all "gone through". For this spectacular piece of enterprise Roger Brown was presented with the very first CDXC Merit Award - richly deserved.

At around the time the club was "formalised" in 1984 a handful of us were sweating on needing just one for Honor Roll; Henry, G3GIQ and I would spend long hours on 2m discussing our last few "wants", in the fervent hope that constant discussion would somehow bring about a much-needed DXpedition. In November, 1983, DXNS had published the news that ZL8AFH was active, but mainly to talk back home on 80m and not, apparently, on HF. At about the same time Jim Smith was attempting to obtain permission to operate from Kermadec but was experiencing opposition from New Zealand. In probably it's first formal act, CDXC sent a letter to

NZART supporting Jim and asking for his efforts to be given fair consideration - Hell's Bells, HR was on the doorstep and the close-out date of 31 March for the annual listings was fast approaching. In those days you weren't on HR until your call appeared in QST so extreme panic started to set in! The DXpedition plans fell through and we had to sweat (heavily) until late February/early March before ZL8AFH became workable on 20m. The Deserving duly "went through" but word was that QSLs might take a while as they were being dealt with by Warwick's mother back home. However, a few long-distance phone calls plus a visit to the local Interflora shop by G4DYO produced the goods from down under and the HR listings later that year included half a dozen new G's!!

In 1984 the first AGM was held and the club was "formalised" as the Chiltern DX Club; several major events took place that year. Social gatherings at G4DYO and G3OZF enabled members to meet Darleen and Joe Magen, HC2YL and HC2OM, W6SN, 9N1MM and other notable DX personalities. Significant DXing achievements were duly recognised and properly inscribed tankards were presented to Bill, G3MCS for being the first UK station to achieve the full 5BWAZ and to Roger, G3KMA for working his last current DXCC country. In August that year the club mounted its very first "DXpedition", with a whole weekend of activity as GK0JFK from the J F Kennedy Memorial site at Runnymede to coincide with the Olympic Games (we later aired the same site as WG1JFK during the US Bicentennial celebrations). Just how we obtained the prefixes GK and WG remains a closely guarded secret, save to say that we had "connections" in the DTI!

It was a very personal club of elite DXers in those early days and it was not for several years that the doors were opened to DXers outside the Thames Valley. Initial requirements for membership were a DXCC score of at least 240 countries and the requirement to be within 2m FM range; potential new members had to serve a six-month probationary period before being admitted into the club. Activity on the 2m channel was continuous; one could switch on at any time of the day or night in the certain knowledge that there would be someone to talk DX with. The "two-bells" telephone alerting system - sadly, with the advent of the Cluster, no longer employed - was used extensively; CDXC members never got a full night's sleep in those days!! There can be no doubt that the Cluster system - undoubtedly a technological marvel and a most useful tool (when properly employed) - has taken away a lot of the fun. 144.525 has fallen into disuse and the continuous personal contact has largely been replaced by a PC and an idiot lantern. Today's DXers, many of whom are spoon-fed with PC programmes that do everything except make the tea, have no idea what they've missed out on. The early days of CDXC were truly the Golden Days of DXing - at least for this DXer.

The four or five DXers who chatted on 2m could hardly have foreseen the huge expansion of CDXC to become the UK DX Foundation, nor would they have dreamt in a million years that the club would one day receive an accolade such as that awarded by FOC. In a note enclosed with my tickets for the FOC Dinner, Maud Slater wrote: *"I know that CDXC was one of the few clubs that Al thought highly of; he felt you had very similar ideas on amateur radio....."* What more can one say?

Raw score results ZF2JI

BAND	Q	Z	C
160	408	9	28
80	1138	20	69
40	1852	22	65
20	3681	34	134
15	2490	27	110
10	1008	25	101
TOTAL	10577	137	507

SCORE = 15,102,444

IOTA SPONSORSHIP BY YAESU

The IOTA Committee of the Radio Society of Great Britain and Yaesu UK Ltd announce that they have entered into a sponsorship agreement by which Yaesu becomes the principal sponsor of the RSGB IOTA (Islands on the Air) Programme.

The agreement is a world-wide agreement and runs for three years from 1 October 1994.

Under this agreement Yaesu will inject funds into the IOTA Programme which will be used by the IOTA Committee to finance its costs in running the programme. Yaesu will secure advertising without charge in the IOTA Directory and in the IOTA Anniversary Booklet. Both parties agree to make their best efforts to publicise the agreement.

Yaesu will be making available on loan a portable station for the use of IOTA DXpeditions together with QSL cards.

Roger Balister G3KMA RSGB IOTA Director commented " Many benefits will follow which will enhance the programme, both in the UK and also world-wide, in a way which would otherwise not have been possible. This agreement signals the beginning of a new era for IOTA and offers great potential for future growth and stability ".

Barry Cooper G4RKO Sales and Marketing Director Yaesu UK Ltd commented " The sponsorship of IOTA, a major international awards programme is an innovative idea which breaks new ground and should greatly benefit both IOTA and Yaesu in the market-place. We are delighted to have become associated with the IOTA Programme ".

Under the agreement minor sponsors are encouraged to join.

RSGB HF & IOTA CONVENTION 1994
IOTA DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS (SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 1994)
Roger Balister, G3KMA

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to this, the third IOTA Convention at Windsor. Before we start proceedings I want to cover a few housekeeping points. This current session will run through to about 1030, and be devoted to a report on the recent major developments in the programme briefly mentioned last night. Neville G3NUG and Bob G3PJT will help fill in some of the detail and also raise other subjects of interest. At 1115 we'll have a Question and Answer Session on IOTA policy. This will take us through to about 1215. Lunch will be served in the restaurant. Do ask one of the Committee Members or at the information desk if you need assistance.

First some apologies for absence. We have received written apologies from Kurt HB9AFI, Gianni I1HYW, Rurik OH2QQ, John OZ4RT, Rafal SP6TPM (and the SP-IOTA Club), Jim VK9NS, Don W9DC and Luis, YV5ENI. All asked us to pass their best wishes to you. Gianni was hoping right up to the last moment to be able to make it. But he was required to make a business trip to Cleveland, Ohio this weekend and his firm could not organise flights to allow a 24 hour stop over in London. He has sent the following message: "I would like to pass my warmest wishes to our friends coming from all over the world to attend the best event of the year, the IOTA Convention. I'm not there but let me be there with my heart. I'm proud and everyone should be, to see that after years OUR IOTA is the best result of real co-operation between friends. It has demonstrated how important is man's role in managing, continuously improving and maintaining what we all have built and achieved: IOTA could be considered as a great plaything now, and we have to work to make it better and better. The level it has

reached so far is the result of the engagement of all of us, of our friendship, of our devotion and our sense of respect of human values ...Thanks to everyone."

I would like also to remember a number of our friends who became silent keys during the year, Geoff Watts, founder of the IOTA Programme, to whom we owe so much, Willy HB9CZW, who designed the IOTA logo, Franco I1KFB and Libero I1YXN who jointly organised the 1991 Loano Convention, Pietro IN3ANE and John G4IJW, both long time IOTA enthusiasts and Horst DK6NN who worked so many of us from the Bahamas.

IOTA has experienced another very successful year with about 38 new groups activated. Poor band conditions have meant that not all were workable, but the vast majority were by those who were fortunate to have well equipped stations and to be around at the right time. For the rest of us, we can always look forward to the next operation! The number of IOTA operations taking place round the world on almost any day of the year must now be approaching double figures. The IOTA Contest in July was an even greater success than last year in spite of poor conditions. I understand between 400 and 500 logs were received and the Contests Committee say that the number of contacts in this one contest alone exceeded the sum total of contacts made in all other RSGB contests over the last 12 months. We can talk about this a bit more in the Question and Answer Session later.

This weekend is a big occasion for IOTA. We announced last night that we had entered into a sponsorship deal with Yaesu UK Ltd under which they will become the principal sponsor of the IOTA programme for the next three years. This agreement is a world-wide agreement, committing not just Yaesu UK but the whole Yaesu organisation. IOTA will benefit in many ways, in terms of much increased publicity - Yaesu will from now on enclose literature on IOTA with every new rig sold world-wide; in terms of funding - the firm will make a significant annual contribution to our costs in running the programme; in terms of assistance with equipment, we will receive a full portable station on loan for the period; in terms of help with QSLs, and so on. For their part Yaesu see real advertising opportunities from the link with IOTA as it consolidates its position as a major award programme. Neville will give more details in a few minutes time. For the moment I will just say that both we and Yaesu have today issued a press notice world-wide about this important development.

You may ask why we need additional finance, particularly those of you who have seen the note in this week's DX News Sheet about increased administration charges from 1 January 1995 for checking QSLs for IOTA certificates and updates. Over the last few months we have spent a lot of effort preparing an IOTA Development Plan for the period from now to the year 2000. The Plan covers all aspects of IOTA, programme penetration, scope for improvements, marketing, changes in management structure, and of course resourcing and funding. What became clear in preparing this Plan was that the low level of IOTA's funds combined with a total reliance on volunteer effort made the programme vulnerable to the point where its long term future could not be guaranteed. Attention had to be given to proper resourcing of the programme. Outside sponsorship apart, the Plan envisages increased revenue coming from a step rise in the number of certificate applications and updates. This in itself requires enhancements to the computer system to increase the speed of throughput. We have commissioned software which enables the applicant to submit an application on disk which can be merged with the central IOTA Records database without the need for any retyping by either the checkpoint or the Records Manager.

Neville will say a few words on this and the Development Plan also.

As further examples of action taken to give IOTA a higher profile, we have published this weekend two booklets, one commemorating the 30th anniversary of IOTA and the other the 1995 IOTA Directory. They are a twin-set, same high gloss colour cover, each with 56 gloss pages, and both packed with information. We have been very brave with the size of the print runs ordered, we need to sell a lot of them to recover the costs before IOTA begins to benefit. May I recommend them to you - they are good value and can be bought in the Bar.

You will recall that last June we launched a small scale review exercise to replace some of the unnumbered groups in the Directory, which in the absence of qualifying islands had no chance of being activated, with new groups with qualifying islands which were particularly deserving. The new Directory incorporates the additions and deletions. In all 19 new groups were added, a further 9 groups had their coverage amended, 13 "barren" groups were withdrawn and a further 2 groups were deleted. We remain within our imposed ceiling of 1175 groups. The next review exercise will be in 5 years time. To give you some idea where to look in the Directory, the coastal islands of Iceland, Sardinia, Sicily, Corsica, Honshu in Japan, Newfoundland, North and South Island New Zealand and of the split sovereignty island of St Martin have been recognised as separate groups. A major reorganisation of Brazilian groups makes up most of the rest. Oh yes, we have agreed the Portuguese request for Pessegueiro to count separately ..... and Scarborough Reef, a new UAE coastal group, Houtman Abrolhos (VK6), Pocklington Reef (P29) and Calagua Is (DU4). I would like to thank all who participated in this exercise. Another subject of interest to many of you, overseas checkpoints. We have appointed two new checkpoints, Ray G3ALI, who was previously checkpoint for Italy, has taken over responsibility for countries in Africa, Asia and Central & South America. We have agreed with Jim Smith, VK9NS that the HIDXA will be the checkpoint for Australia, New Zealand and other non-US Pacific countries. We have received formal requests for a checkpoint from Spain and France. The Committee has reviewed its policy towards further overseas checkpoints and has decided that, as soon as the computer developments allow, it will consider requests for a local checkpoint from countries where the number of current participants in the programme exceeds 50 or where local language Directories sold exceed 200 or where there are priority reasons. Any agreement would, by preference, be between the RSGB and the national society. Anyone proposed as a checkpoint would need to be known to the IOTA Committee, and this applies to any subsequent replacement. We would find it difficult to accept as checkpoint someone who was not personally active in the programme.

Another subject considered during the year was the future make-up of the Committee. As you know, we have one overseas member representing North America. He is with us today, Dewitt W4BAA. As a result of his sterling work and that of the other US checkpoints participation in the programme "from the colonies" now exceeds that from the UK and Italy. That's great. I must say a word about Italy - Italian amateurs have over the years shown a tremendous interest in IOTA. The Committee has decided to invite the current IOTA Country Assistant for Italy on to the Committee to fill a newly formed post representing Europe, or should I say the European mainland. Mauro, I1JQJ has been a great help to the Committee over the last two years and has given some very wise counsel. I am personally very pleased that he has accepted the offer. He knows we cannot pay his airfare to attend Committee meetings but fax machines are very useful

these days. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Ray, G3ALI and Brian, G4RFV who are leaving the Committee for their valued support. They will remain in the programme as checkpoints.

I should like to take this opportunity also to thank the rest of the Committee for their support and assistance over the past year.

One final point, you may not all have seen the announcement about charges in this week's DX News Sheet. Procedures for submitting claims are being changed and you will need to check these before your next submission. We are now going to insist on a signed declaration and a Directory number before processing applications.

I think this is sufficient from me for the moment. I want to bring in Neville, and then Bob on one or two subjects which are concerning us.

[G3NUG then spoke about the Development Plan and the Yaesu sponsorship agreement and G3PJT about On Air Activity and Quality Control.]

Thank you Neville and Bob.

I think you will agree that we have been very active over the last few months. We now have some exciting opportunities. It will be a new departure for us to be able to help island activators a little. There will of course be limits imposed by lack of finance. We have been thinking about this and wonder whether now is the time to set up a fund to which island chasers could contribute. It could be called the Friends of IOTA fund. I hope that in the Question and Answer session after the coffee break we get some audience reaction to this.

Roger Balister RSGB IOTA Director

AN OUTING TO ANGMASSALIK OX3/G3ZAY

Martin Atherton, G3ZAY

For a long time NA151 had been a gap in my IOTA record sheet. Every OX station I had worked appeared to be on the west coast - either the mainland or an island. The atlas made clear why this was so. Although there were dozens of settlements on the western side, only two showed up on the east; Angmassalik, and some way to the north, Nerlerit Inaat. Further research showed that Angmassalik was an island community and that Nerlerit Inaat whilst close to some islands was not only mainland but a decidedly unpleasant spot to visit. A Greenland guidebook claims it is prone to "outbursts of murderous violence"!

It seemed I would have to wait until someone showed up from Angmassalik but a chance skim through a travel brochure threw up an alternative. I could go there myself, and under IOTA rules could then count the place just as if I had worked it from home. Arctic Experience run a range of tours to Greenland via Iceland and offer 2-4 days at Angmassalik as part of a one week package.

Before making a firm booking I had to confirm that Angmassalik meets the IOTA 200 metre separation rule - not so easy when the best maps available commercially have a scale of 250,000:1, **and** show it as a borderline case. Fortunately the Cambridge University library came up with a 50,000:1 survey from the Danish Geodetic Institute which showed about 300m minimum separation and G3KMA was able to agree it as valid.

In early July I was off. Flight to Keflavik, side trip to the Westman Islands (EU-71) but without a radio, and then on by Icelandair Fokker turboprop to Greenland. Visibility was good as we passed the volcano "Hecla" on the south-west corner of Iceland and dropped down over massive ice floes along

the Greenland coast before touching down at Kulusuk airport. This turned out to be on a separate island some 50kms from the town and we had to wait while the Greenlandair helicopter ferried us, nine at a time, to the Angmassalik heliport. From there the hotel minibus was waiting to take us up the hill and I got my first view of the operating location.

The mountains towering up to 2000 feet looked to be a problem for the US path but of more concern was the array of towers and antennas belonging to the coastal radio station just 100 yards from the hotel. How would the FT890 deal with this? And would my output be clean enough not to bother them?

Deciding to grasp the nettle firmly I knocked on the door of the station and introduced myself to the staff - perhaps a mistake as I was not able to escape for several hours until I had been shown everything from the Intelsat spectrum analyser to the town telephone exchange. It seemed they weren't too concerned about my activity since their receiving antennas were several kms away. But they disclaimed any responsibility for damage to my receiver as their transmitters were putting several kW into the antennas on my doorstep. They hadn't come across the CEPT licence so it was probably just as well I had obtained a fax from their Nuuk HQ to confirm that I could operate as OX3/G3ZAY under CEPT conditions.

Having eventually escaped their technical tour, I set up the Butternut, tweaked it with the AEA HF Analyser, and got started on the pile-ups. As expected there were many callers and the USA (apart from W1/W2) did not seem too affected by the mountains. 20 metres was by far the best band and open almost around the clock. My sked with ZS6EZ on 40m paid off OK to give Chris a new one on CW and surprisingly (given that there was round-the-clock daylight) I was able to work a few Europeans on 80m in the IARU contest.

For those who missed me I have to apologise for wasting time sightseeing! I was determined to get out and about and signed up for a helicopter trip to the ice-cap as well as a 6 hour boat excursion to an outlying community.

Angmassalik itself has about 1500 inhabitants and is the administrative capital of the area but a further 1500 people live in half a dozen outlying settlements. During the short ice-free summer there are daily boat connections to these spots and in winter dog-sled teams are used. Helicopters run throughout the year for those who can afford the average $100 per ride prices.

Hotel Angmassalik was a surprising find. Modern, clean, CATV in the rooms, good food, panoramic views, etc. etc. It makes its money on the 2-4 day packages in summer and on 7-10 day dog sledging holidays in the spring. Summer was rest-time for the dogs which were all staked out around the town, many nursing puppies, and were a major source of QRM. Instead of barking, whole groups in different parts of town would howl for minutes at a time. And when one lot quietened down, another would start.

Cheaper options than the Arctic Experience package are available though you would need to tour the bucket shops to get the best Icelandair price to Keflavik and you will be stuck with at least a £250 bill for the Reykjavik-Kulusuk-Angmassalik round-trip. There is a youth hostel in Angmassalik and camping is allowed on the edge of the town.

For a time my fellow tourists had me down for the "raving loony" prize as I kept returning to my room to make QSOs but I was saved by two other young Englishmen who won it hands down. They appeared in the hotel bar one evening to meet a local contact who'd agreed to take them to a glacier some 50 miles down the coast. Their

plan was to cross the ice-cap by sledge, and relying on a prevailing east-west wind, were using parachutes as motors! I hope they made it, not least because one was planning to visit VE8 next year and was interested in getting a radio licence.

The return journey was a wonderful sightseeing opportunity. I'd been scheduled for an early helicopter flight and had some 4 hours to kill at Kulusuk before the return flight so set out on foot for the Greenlandic settlement at Kap Dan some 3kms from the airport. This has become something of a tourist trap as Icelandair run day trips (£200 per person) during the summer for a 4 hour visit to the settlement. Blending with the crowds I watched the demonstrations of kayak paddling and drum dancing laid on for the day trippers and bought my share of "traditional" decorative beads from the Eskimo children. (Aren't Europeans supposed to sell the beads and trinkets?)

The flight back to Reykjavik was unusual. Since the visibility was so good, the pilot announced he would try to show us a little more of the landscape and headed out at 2000 feet across the fjord towards the ice cap. We passed one of Angmassalik's outlying settlements and an abandoned World War 2 air base before flying up the Knud Rasmussen glacier. The plane made a tight turn at the top of the glacier and then dropped down to about 150 feet skimming over innumerable crevasses and following the glacier's path down to the sea. Touch-down at Reykjavik was a distinct anti-climax.

TELEPHONE QRM

Hi All, After giving it a bit of a Blast at the Weckend, one of my neighbours-the one I get on with, told me I was coming thru' his phone, I was beaming at his house at the time. In Radcom about a year ago there was something in the EMC column about a BT RF filter available from their shops, so the Question is, has anyone tried one out and did it work ?? My problem was on 15 mtrs, and although I have used ferrite rings in thepast, I think a plug in filter would be neater. 73 de Keith G3VKW Sysop GB7DXS

NU2L/VE8 - YEAR 3

Martin Atherton, G3ZAY

GETTING ORGANISED

My VE8 trip for 1994 was to be based on the Belcher Islands - an un-numbered group at the south end of Hudson Bay which seemed to be tantalisingly accessible by air from Montreal and even boasted a settlement (Sanikiluaq) with a hotel. The main question was whether any additional groups could be added to the itinerary at a reasonable price.

Hudson Bay (Quebec Coast South), NA-173 was nearby but had been given a thorough airing by VE8CWI two years ago. The Sleeper and King George Islands, NA-159, were 40-100 miles away from the Belchers and had seen a single brief operation by KD2JR. While to the north and east lay the Hopewell and Nastapoka Islands together comprising a further un-numbered group.

The research work was greatly simplified when I telephoned one of the hotels in northern Quebec and was routed to their Montreal HQ - the Federation des Co-operatives de Nouveau Quebec, or FCNQ for short. They have an affiliated travel agency "Inuit Adventures" which specialises in arranging one-off tours. Day-trips to the Hopewell Islands by "freighter canoe" from Inukjuak would be no problem and they could arrange air tickets, transport, accommodation, etc. Better still, Inukjuak and the Belcher Islands are on the same Air Inuit route so they could handle all my domestic flight reservations as well. As a final point the FCNQ agreed to supply a 12 volt car battery and/or generator.

The question then remained as to whether a side trip to NA-159 could be added and my first call was to the Sanikiluaq hotel. They suggested I speak to a Greg Kazakoff at the hamlet office who was highly encouraging and thought an outing in the community's 40' Peterhead boat would be quite possible. I

duly outlined my request in writing and mailed it off for the attention of the local council but as I had received no reply when I set out I had no idea whether the trip would be possible or affordable.

The August departure time duly arrived and I met up with Tom, WT2O, at Montreal for our Friday flight to the backwoods. Tom's participation had been in doubt until the last minute as he was changing jobs but his new company eventually agreed to allow him a week's unpaid leave. The first leg was with Canadian North in a 737; initially to Val d'Or some 45 minutes flying time north, then 60 minutes onwards to La Grande Riviere (a hydro-electric outpost at the end of 600 kms of dirt roads), and finally 25 minutes to Poste de la Baleine on the Hudson Bay coast (no roads).

Poste de la Baleine is unusual in having four different names; Great Whale in English, Kuujuarapik in Inuktitut, and Whapmagoostui in Cree. Inuit and Cree villages coexist alongside the river and there is a substantial support infrastructure for sub-Arctic activities.

We had a two hour wait for the HS748 Air Inuit flight to Inukjuak and were pleased to find it was scheduled to call at a number of other settlements en-route. We were even to get a preview of Sanikiluaq and as an Eskimo lady in the next seat was getting off there I asked her to remind Greg that the crazy Englishman would fly in on Monday as planned.

INUKJUAK AND THE HOPEWELL ISLANDS

Reaching Inukjuak at about 1800 we had a first glitch with the arrangements when nobody showed up to meet us. But after a call to the co-op a battered pick-up truck turned up and ran us the 2kms back to the settlement. We agreed to meet our guide at 0800 the next morning and settled in for an early night.

We were ready to go by 0730 as we hoped to get on the island in time for the Pacific opening to Jim Smith and the ZLs but by 0830 our guide had not shown up. A call to the FCNQ manageress brought her down to the hotel, and she explained that Joby, our Inuk guide, didn't think he could be ready until about 1030! Restraining my temper I explained that I had flown 5,000 miles to visit the islands for two days, that the guide had known this for many months, that we had agreed 0800, and that perhaps the guide could reconsider!

Presumably he did, because he showed up at 0930 but without any of the instructions I had carefully sent to the FCNQ months beforehand. "Where did we want to go?" was his first question ominously phrased in Inuktitut and translated by the manageress? "Does he speak any French or English?" I asked. "Oh no, we'll just tell him what you want now so there'll be no problem" was the reply.

I pulled out the map and pointed to Patterson Island, the nearest of the Hopewells, and elicited a rapid debate in Inuktitut. "Joby says the island is full of husky dogs at the moment". "Does that matter?" I asked. "Not if they are friendly" was the re-assuring reply!

Joby decided that they probably would be and after a 15 minute ride in his outboard-powered canoe we were approaching the shore. Patterson is sandy and low lying and the grass meadows in early August were resplendent with wild flowers. Snow clinging to cliffs of adjacent islands was a constant reminder that this was not a temperate climate.

Dogs there were aplenty, running along the beach and barking their heads off, but it was difficult to tell if they were friendly or anticipating taking a few bites out of us. As

the canoe grounded they leapt up alongside, paws scrabbling at the wood still barking like mad, and received some firm clouts from Joby. Now was the moment to jump out and drag the canoe up the beach - oh well what are a few bites in the cause of DXing.

It proved to be a day for being friendly and they settled into a cozy domestic dog routine waiting to be petted or receive any sandwich scraps going. First priority was to get on the air so the Butternut was quickly assembled, the generator started, and the battery hooked up to float charge. Ominously there was no spark as I hooked on the clips, and my Avometer showed just 2 volts across the whole battery. Inside, there was no sign of any acid so the battery was clearly useless and whilst I could have run the mains power supply off the generator's 120V outlet - I'd left it behind at the hotel.

Joby managed to understand my pantomimed sign language and after a further 40 mins we were back with the Yaesu switched mode power supply which I'd carefully set to 120 volts. As a precaution I checked the generator's output and found it was giving 180 volts. It needed servicing and would only run with the choke full on and much faster than necessary. Fortunately the 200 volt PSU setting seemed to handle this so we plugged in the rig, settled down to operate, and found S9++ ignition noise from the generator. The FT890 noise blanker restored almost perfect copy from total QRM and we were finally QRV - this time with Tom's call as WT2O/VE8 - from NA195. Joby showed interest in the various pieces of equipment but my sign language was quite incapable of explaining the purpose of an SWR bridge.

The WX was fine so we operated from the grass - a decision we later came to regret as the mosquitoes warmed up and became more active. But it was too nice a day to retreat into the tent and we got used to wiping any exposed skin every few seconds. Conditions were reasonably good and we kept running the pile-up until our scheduled departure time of 1800.

Joby had agreed to meet us by his boat at 0700 on Sunday but the wind had risen overnight and he could take us no further than Sheep Island about 1km from the settlement. G3KMA was able to confirm that this was OK for the same IOTA group as Patterson as I'd left him a photocopy of both a 1,000,000:1 and a 50,000:1 map before leaving England and we were back in action with the pile-ups. This time we set up Tom's tent as an operating shelter and found it barely withstood the gusty wind. Joby preferred to make his own arrangements with an old tarpaulin from his canoe and lengths of driftwood from the beach. His construction was far more successful than ours!

Monday was the day for the flight to Sanikiluaq in the Belchers and we were in luck. We had found one of the few days that week that the airport was free of early morning fog. Arctic travel is always at the mercy of the weather and with infrequent flights, the next chance to get out can be several days away.

SANIKILUAQ

I viewed the Belcher visit with some apprehension as other communities had spoken of Sanikiluaq as a very unfriendly place. "Never heard anything good of the place yet" had been one comment from friends in Rankin Inlet last year. A sense of foreboding was increased by the guidebook which related a strange tale from the 1940s of religious cults, violent battles, and fake messiahs sending their followers into the tundra to freeze to death. Apparently the "Mounties" had had to fly in and restore order.

First impressions were good. There was a lively crowd at the airport and we were soon offered a ride into the hamlet (pop. 600) in

the official truck. Greg Kazakoff was there, not to meet us as I first thought but on his way home at the end of his contract. Before jumping on the plane he introduced us to Moses Novalinga Jnr, a young Inuk with a senior management post in the local admin, and assured us that Moses would sort things out.

As always the first priority was to get a signal on the air so we headed for the hotel and started assembling the Butternut. We stopped briefly for lunch and were regaled with stories about "the dumb locals" by a bunch of red-neck workmen from southern Canada. "Ghost town this" one said "you never see any people". "Yeah, guess they're all rooting through the dump doing their weekly shopping" came another contribution. What these morons had not taken the trouble to discover was that summer is the ideal time for families to go camping on the land and to visit the soapstone quarries 50 miles to the south to collect material for carving during the winter.

Once Tom was making QSOs and had been given the new reference number NA-196 I strolled down to the hamlet office to find Moses and talk about the side-trip to the King George Islands. Plan A was for us to remain at Sanikiluaq until Thursday allowing either Tuesday or Wednesday for the excursion. Plan B if the excursion proved impossible was to fly back to Great Whale on Tuesday and spend Wednesday on NA-173. I found Plan B slightly more reassuring as I didn't want to miss my flight back to London from Montreal and a Thursday departure from the Belchers left no margin for bad weather.

An unpromising pair of wooden sheds from the outside, the hamlet offices were a revelation inside. Spotless rooms, PCs and fax machines all over the place, a meeting room, library area, and waiting room gave an air of modern efficiency. Moses wasn't there when I arrived but a young secretary was expecting me and produced my letter from her file. "The council will probably be discussing your application to hire our boat tomorrow" she said! I was just getting set to reply that this would be a little late when another official wandered across. "Fraid the boat's not going to be available this week at all. An Elder just died over at Great Whale and it's going to be taking about 50 mourners to the funeral. Better see if Moses can find an alternative."

This no longer sounded so attractive. An 80 mile round-trip in a well-equipped 40' boat with GPS etc. is one thing. But what was the alternative going to be? A rowing boat with an outboard?

"Well not exactly" Moses said, when he arrived, "You'll need to see Lucasie Arragutainaq about chartering his speedboat. Its a twin engined fifteen footer with a forward cabin. He goes there all the time so it should be no problem as long as the weather is OK." Just at that moment Lucasie wandered into the office on some other errand and quickly agreed to help out for a charter fee of around £230. [This was close to the limit I was prepared to spend and not unreasonable in comparison with other VE8 prices or even with charter rates for Hebridean fishing boats.

The weather bureau gave us an ideal forecast - winds light and variable - and it remained only to find a generator or a couple of batteries. Lucasie set to phoning around the settlement and was careful to look in the mouths of several potential gift horses. "How do you know it only needs a fuse?". "When was it last charged?" "Have you had it running at all this year?" before settling on a rather battered but well maintained 2kW machine used by a local family at their camping grounds.

We agreed to set off at 0730 on Tuesday as Lucasie was planning later to take his family

south to Great Whale for the Elder's funeral. He calculated that with his twin engined speedboat he could give the 40' Peterhead at least a 12 hour start.

We roared off up Eskimo Harbour - an almost totally enclosed body of water some 6kms by 3kms - and exited through the northernmost channel adjacent to the Bakers Dozen Islands. These provided a chain of landmarks though Lucasie was also using a massive compass wedged into a plastic bowl with pieces of foam rubber. The sea was flat calm but vigilance was needed to avoid occasional chunks of sea ice which could have done severe damage to the fibreglass hull. Passing the last of the Bakers Dozen after about an hour Lucasie steered due north and the first of the King George Islands started to appear from the mist. It was cold but Lucasie's friend Simeonie Kavik started a naphtha stove in the rear of the boat and soon had a massive kettle of hot tea going.

Suddenly Lucasie throttled back and pointing to some black heads poking out of the sea, shouted "Lunch". I must have looked blank because he added "Surely you've read that Eskimos eat seals?". Simeonie climbed onto the bows with a rifle and promptly missed the first two. "So much for what I've read about Eskimo marksmanship" I thought. The seals were unaware of any danger and the third shot was a success though it needed both Simeonie and Lucasie to haul the carcass on board.

Five minutes later we were anchored alongside the island and were able to step off onto a natural jetty of ice-polished grey rock. While Tom and I got the station going, Simeonie butchered the seal and soon had the parts laid out on the rock to cool. Lungs, liver, heart, flippers, blubber, and guts are all highly prized and there was going to be a big feast that evening. Lucasie meanwhile gathered driftwood which was lying around by the ton and soon had a blazing fire going to heat the kettle.

The island was little more than several square kilometres of dangerously loose boulders rising 20-30 feet above the sea with a few tufts of grass poking up here and there. At the highest point there seemed to be circles of larger boulders indicating Inuit camping sites and Lucasie unearthed an ivory handled knife very probably dating back to the last century. Wildlife included a handful of birds and a number of arctic foxes which, tempted by the butchered seal, came right up to us.

We operated through the morning and up to about 1430 when Lucasie decided we should head back to give him time to refuel and start the 200 mile trip to Great Whale. The weather had become very foggy but he confidently steered by compass and duly came up on Flaherty Island, the largest of the Belchers, after just over an hour. For the last 20 miles it was pouring with almost freezing rain requiring him to look over the top of the windshield for sea ice. I was frozen stiff just sitting under the spray awning so I can't imagine how he felt; or how he could contemplate more of the same for 200 miles.

We were welcomed back to the hotel by Caroline, the Inuk manageress, who commented that we were just beginning to understand the Eskimo way of life. She went on that evening to give us more detail about the community and its history.

Twenty five years ago there were two Belcher settlements - Sanikiluaq and South Camp - but the Canadian government decreed that South Camp had to close because they wanted to concentrate all support facilities in Sanikiluaq. The South Campers were therefore forced to move north and to this day resent the loss of their old homes. The South Campers had had one great asset though - the only school in the islands. Since they were well-educated and

bilingual, once they had been moved they got all the well paid government jobs in Sanikiluaq. A perfect recipe for resentment and strife!

The Queen's visit to Rankin Inlet was in the news that week and there was some discussion at the store that she had come to find Eskimo wives for her sons - their own choices having worked out so badly!

Wednesday we spent on a mixture of operating and sightseeing and hiked out to the hills at the edge of Eskimo Harbour for a good view of the Sanikiluaq area (shown on my QSL card). As we were leaving, the second of the year's supply boats arrived with materials for the red-neck labourers at the hotel. "*** typical, they've sent the *** roof before the walls! And it's an ***ing Quebec boat so all the papers are gonna be in French. They should tow that ***ing province into the middle of the Atlantic and sink it. They got the best country in the world and they're just ***ing it up". And so on....

Our journey back to Montreal was uneventful and we were pleased to meet up with Lucasie again in the snack bar at Great Whale. He'd taken 13 people in his boat and far from having a quick passage had been forced by bad weather to pull into a small bay in the south Belchers for almost 24 hours. Just normal for an Eskimo he said.

Despite the unfortunate history of the islands and the comments we had heard in previous years I believe the Belcher people were some of the friendliest I have encountered in the Arctic and would strongly recommend a visit to their islands. Tom and I are very grateful to Moses, Lucasie, and Simeonie for their help and we hope to work Moses on the bands sometime as he has asked me to send him more information on amateur radio licensing requirements in Canada.

CUBAN IOTA DXPEDITIONS

UK PacketClusterNetwork

Hello Everyone, Here is something official about the forthcoming trip by CT1ESO and CT1BY. The IOTA Committee has agreed to contribute £100 towards the costs of these operations. Operators are as above + a Cuban team. The following information was given to me by Luis CT1ESO.

6 - 9 November
Jardines de la Reina Arch (b) C/S CO9OTA
Ed: It is reported that Antennas will be 10, 15, 20m mono-banders, with dipoles for 40 & 80m.

11 - 13 November
NA-086 Camaguey Arch C/S CO7/CT1ESO or CO7/CT1BY or Sabana Arch. (e) C/S CO5/CT1ESO or CO5/CT1BY providing transport can be found. *Ed: It is reported that the antenna will be a 20m beam only.*

15 - 17 November
Sabana Arch. (after NA-086) again depending on transport. So we need to keep a careful watch for three possible different operations over the period 6 - 17 November. *Ed: It is reported that this last island will only be activated if funds permit (and donations will be needed to enable this)*

There will be separate QSL managers for each operation.(Names TBA) Hope this is clear. 73 Neville G3NUG Vice-Chairman IOTA Programme. ps The IOTA Committee when contributing to DXpeditions now requires a commitment that bureau cards will be answered. This was agreed without hesitation by the Portuguese team. The references given above are from page 33 of the new 1995 IOTA Directory.

Ed: Donations may be made to: P.O. Box 207, 8900 V.R.S.A., Portugal

IOTA NEWS

The IOTA Committee has announced the introduction with effect from 1 January 1995 of a new fees structure for certificate applications and updates. The main change is the adoption of an administration fee based on the number of cards submitted for checking as the main element of the charge. Details are as follows:

CERTIFICATE FEES

IOTA-100 certificate: no charge (included in the administration fee - see below).

Highest level certificate (IOTA-200 to IOTA-700) appropriate to the applicant's score: no charge (included in the administration fee), but issued only on request. All other certificates: UK£4 or US$6 or 10 IRCs.

ADMINISTRATION FEES -

1. UPDATES Those who are already participating in the programme and hold an IOTA-100 certificate, but do not want or qualify for a further certificate, have the opportunity to update their score for inclusion in the Honour Roll or Annual Listing. The fee for an update where the submission is less than 60 cards is UK£3 or US$5 or 8 IRCs; where it is more, the fee rates in the table below apply. No certificate is issued.

2. CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS Applications for certificates can be made at any time throughout the year. Those applying are required to pay an administration fee based on the number of QSL cards submitted for checking. The IOTA-100 certificate will be issued to new applicants automatically, other certificates will be issued only on request.

ADMINISTRATION FEE PER NUMBER OF QSLS SUBMITTED

Up to 120	UK£6 or US$10 or 16 IRCs
121-170	UK£9 or US$15 or 24 IRCs
171-220	UK£12 or US$20 or 32 IRCs
221-320	UK£15 or US$25 or 40 IRCs
321-420	UK£18 or US$30 or 48 IRCs
421-520	UK£21 or US$35 or 56 IRCs
521-620	UK£24 or US$40 or 64 IRCs
621-720	UK£27 or US$45 or 72 IRCs

The total charge due is the administration fee plus the certificate fee where charged.

From 1 January 1995 it will not be necessary to purchase missing lower level certificates.

Participants submitting certificate applications or updates on an Official IOTA Application Disk, available from IOTA Headquarters after 1 January 1995, will be able to claim a 20% reduction on these charges.

The fee for the Plaque of Excellence is UK£36 or US$60 or 96 IRCs and for a Plaque of Excellence shield UK£2 or US$3 or 5 IRCs.

The special arrangement whereby applicants from the former CIS Republics, the former Yugoslav Republics, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia pay half the certificate fee is extended to cover the administration fee.

Examples

A. First application for IOTA-100 certificate.120 cards submitted. No charge for -100 certificate. £6.00 If submitted on Official IOTA Application Disk (20% discount) £4.80

B. Application for IOTA-100 and 200 certificates. 215 cards submitted. No charge for either certificate. £12.00. If submitted on Official IOTA Application Disk (20% discount) £9.60

C. Application for IOTA-300, having already obtained IOTA-100. 150 cards submitted. Only 300 certificate required, no charge. £9.00. If submitted on Official IOTA Application Disk (20% discount) £7.20

D. Application for IOTA 300 to 500, having already obtained IOTA-100 & -200. 317 cards submitted. No charge for IOTA-500 certificate. £15.00 Two other certificates required (-300, -400), £4 x 2. £8.00 £23.00 If submitted on Official IOTA Application Disk (20% discount) £18.40

E. First application for IOTA-600 certificate. 620 cards submitted. No charge for IOTA-100 and -600 certificates. £24 .00. Four other certificates required (-200, -300, -400, -500), £4 x 4.£16.00 £40.00. If submitted on Official IOTA Application Disk (20% discount) £32.00

How Marconi et al changed brainwaves to radio waves

The early history of radio: from Faraday to Marconi, GRM Garrett, Institute of Electrical Engineers in association with the Science Museum, £19

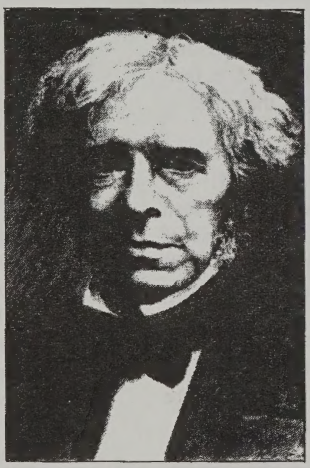
They all said Marconi was a phoney . . . said Gershwin turning a neat lyric on shock-of-the-new scepticism.

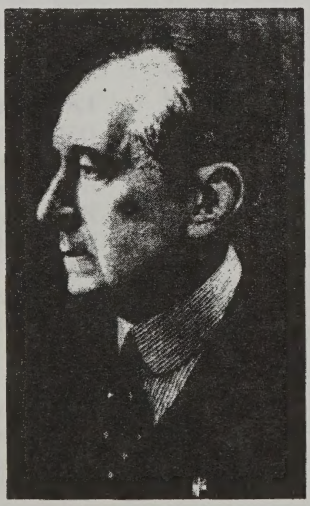
'They' didn't, of course: Guglielmo Marconi was feted, then as now, as the inventor of radio. But few inventions are the work of one individual. Marconi wasn't a phoney, but he was a youthful entrepreneur with a timely patent and the right contacts (so creating an early monopoly for the fledgling Marconi company). As this book points out, Marconi's achievement was the application of 80 years of observation, theory and discovery.

For many years Gerald Garrett was in charge of the Science Museum's communications collection, and he had a special interest in the 'pre-history' of radio. The book — completed by his daughter after his death — begins with Michael Faraday's discovery of electromagnetic induction following Oersted's observations on the effect of a current carrying wire on a magnetised needle.

Faraday is one of Garrett's heroic figures: an able experimenter and self-taught scientist, he was also a daring theorist. But his contemporaries were sceptical, and, fearful of criticism, he confined his tentative ideas on wave propagation to a sealed letter deposited with the Royal Institution in 1832 and unopened until 1937.

In the 1850s Maxwell subjected Faraday's lines of force theory to rigorous mathematical analysis and made the link between light and electromagnetic propagation. But he died 10 years too soon to see Hertz's work with spark gaps provide physical proof, and Hertz himself did not foresee any practical application for it.





Fathers of radio: Faraday (above) to Marconi below)

Professor Oliver Lodge had heard Maxwell speak in 1873 and by chance met Hertz on a visit to Berlin in 1881. He was the first to appreciate the need for resonance between transmitter and receiver, and developed the coherer, a detector of radio waves. Lodge's 1894 lecture to the Royal Institution was immensely significant — without Lodge, says Garrett, there would have been no Marconi — yet his contribution has been largely forgotten.

Lodge had fallen out with Preece, chief engineer at the Post Office, over work on lightning conductors, and when Marconi arrived in England in 1896 he found Preece largely ignorant of Lodge's work and willing to sponsor the first test transmissions which won him fame.

Such are the social contingencies that often steer the history of technology. This is a succinct and readable addition to that history, though few may be willing to pay £19 for 90 pages of text.

David Attwood

QSO FROM THE HUMBER BRIDGE

Roy Andreang, G4CMT

The time: April 1974. The place "The Humber Bridge", Hessle, Nr. Kingston-Upon-Hull. I was 50 years old on 6th April 1974, and had just been appointed P.R.O. for the Hull Radio Club.

All the local news and talk was of *The Bridge*, which was to span the River Humber, joining the North and South banks of the new County of Humberside (formerly East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire). This was to be over 1 mile long, and, in fact, the longest single span bridge in the world.

Building started on 27th June 1972; the bridge was open to traffic in June 1981, and was officially opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II on 17th July 1981. The length of the single span, between the two 500 ft. supporting towers, is 4,626 feet.

I thought it would be a good idea if I could get permission to operate from the top of the unfinished towers, which at this time, were no more than a scaffolding clad skeleton.

After very difficult correspondence, and assurances having been given re insurance etc., the architects gave me permission to operate.

My daughter and I arrived on site under the towers on April 6th 1974, and the equipment (a Codar ATS transmitter, T28 receiver, "G" whip, tuned to 1.985kc/s. Powered by a motor cycle battery, the rig ran 8w of AM.

I entered the "hoist" (the best way to describe it!) with my equipment, and the relief shift of 3 men. On arrival at the top, which was encased in scaffolding, I had to walk the plank to a position midway between the two walls of the Northern tower. I soon had the rig installed, with some help from the chap assigned to keep an eye on me.

I tied the whip vertically, and, standing on the plank, 505 ft up, and coping with wind noise and noise from the generator which powered the hoist, I opened my mobile log book, and, at 1710z, called CQ de G4CMT/P. No reply! After some deliberation, I climbed the scaffolding again, this time on my own, and, with the whip horizontal, called CQ again. Hey presto! 12 QSOs in the 15 minutes remaining of my allotted time, the furthest being G3LYW in Somerset, who gave me 59. I'm told I was heard in the USA!

So there it was, the first radio broadcast from the Humber Bridge, to be followed five years later by the first parachute mobile.

9X5HG

Reprinted from QRZDX, and was supplied by VK2PS.

After I made a number of enquiries in Germany I was delighted to receive a long letter from Hartmut at the end of June. I am sure Hartmut will not mind sharing some of his experiences with you. To understand some of the references in his letter you must know that the German International Broadcaster "Die Deutsche Welle" had a relay station in Kigali, where Hartmut was employed as a professional electronics engineer. So let's read some of Hartmut's letter:

Let me report what happened after our QSO in October 1991, writes Hartmut. *The life on Kinyinya Hill, 10 km from Kigali was really some kind of "splendid isolation" Whilst the local inhabitants down in the valley were cutting down the vegetation for firewood, our German HQ allowed us to build a stone wall around the Deutsche Welle transmitter site. The big gardens around our Bungalow under the expert fingers of Heidi - my XYL - were in full bloom. Even trees were growing faster. Consequently, my wire antennas moved higher and higher. Later an old 25 meter*

high guyed tower became redundant for the transmitting station and I got the tower erected in our garden.

That was in December. My plan was to build more monoband log periodics and put them all on the top of the tower. In January, my dream was over. A lot of aluminium piping was cut into pieces - for nothing! The transmitting station manager advised me to remove the tower. It was never explained to me why I should remove it, but I did.

Later on, as a result of a political agreement between the two Rwandan groups, the people who were fighting in the north against the Rwandan president, were permitted to send some of their leaders into the Rwandan Parliament - along with 600 well-trained and heavily-armed Tutsi fighters to protect them. They lived half way between Kigali and our hill. Around their camp was a fence, and on the outside were the blue-helmeted soldiers of Belgium, Bangladesh and Uruguay. This was a strange configuration. Heidi said that we are now sitting on a powder keg. She was right, when one considers what happened afterwards.

Two weeks before the plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were shot down, Heidi and I travelled to Germany on our annual vacation, without thinking that we might not return. We followed the domestic events as they unfolded on German television.

All of our personal possessions were in three aluminium boxes, which were our travelling luggage. In one box was the little lap top computer that I am using now. Stored on the hard disk was a writing program and - luckily- the whole log of 9X5HG (I always used the laptop as backup for the big computer in the shack).

The very sad thing is that we lost all of our belongings which were left in our bungalow in Kigali. We are almost certain that our house was broken into and our things were either stolen, destroyed, or burned. Books from my father and grandfather, a collection of priceless china, one room full of "radio junk" collected during 45 years of hamming, my total QSL card collection, etc.

I am glad that we were not hurt. Life goes on, and I concentrate on our future. We assume that the "Deutche Welle" relay station in Kigali will be closed and we will never return there. I work now in our Cologne HQ. We live here in Cologne in a tiny furnished apartment.

I bought a little rig, the scout from TenTec. Tomorrow I will connect it to a multiband vertical antenna on the balcony. There are no expectations regarding DXing, but perhaps I can reach some of my old friends again. My greetings to all the DXers in your area.

It was good fun to always have the relatively good conditions between Australia and Rwanda. Now I wish I would have been more active, says Hartmut, ending his letter.

Anyone who has not received a QSL from Hartmut may QSL via his German address: Hartmut Gumpert, Gustav Heinemann-Ufer 112, 50968 Koeln, Germany.

Ed: Hartmut did, in fact return briefly to salvage some of his things, but leaves for good very soon.

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!

Well, that's it for this time. It was a real struggle getting hold of good material this time, and that's one of the reasons for the late delivery of this edition. PLEASE let me have articles, news, letters etc. on any HF matter by the deadline of 7th December. Perhaps some of our newer members would like to have a go at writing something, although I was fortunate to be able to get hold of articles for this issue by new members K7JA and I1JQJ. 73 de Alan Jubb, G3PMR, Newsletter Editor.

REMEMBER REMEMBER

THE 26th OF NOVEMBER

that's when the fireworks really hit town

an invitation

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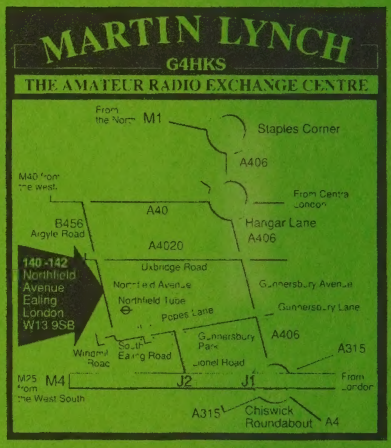

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